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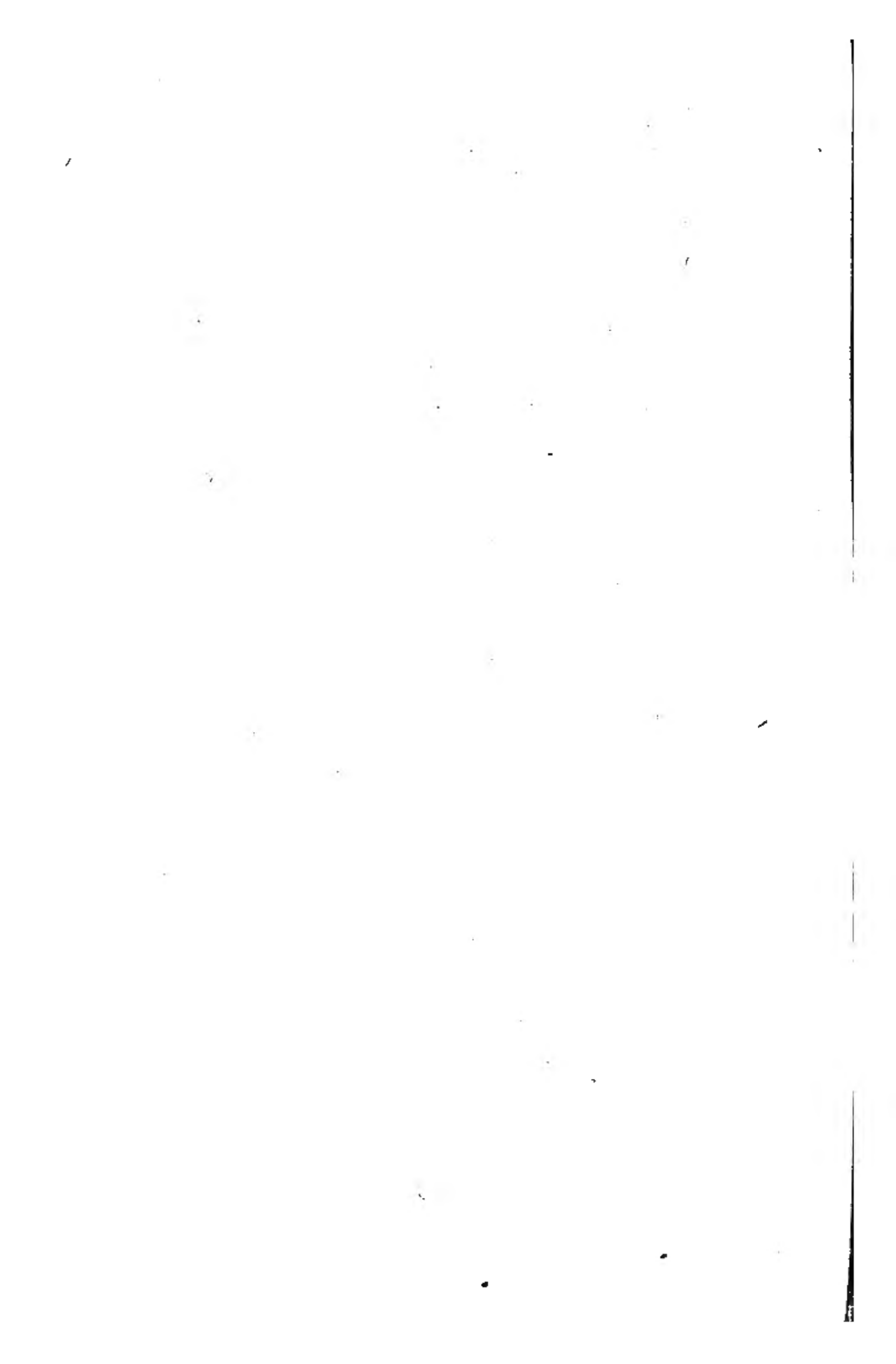
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Henry W. Longfellow

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OF
NADSWORTH

Household Edition

WITH TWO HUNDRED
ILLUSTRATIONS

BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN COMPANY
The Riverside Press Cambridge

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

The present *Household Edition* of Mr. Longfellow's Poetical Writings is printed from entirely new plates, and contains all his original verse that he wished to preserve, and all his translations except the *Divina Commedia*. The poems are printed as nearly as possible in chronological order, the lines are numbered, and many new notes have been added at the end of the volume.

Great care has been taken in selecting the illustrations, which represent the work of about seventy leading American and English artists, including Abbey, Boughton, Church, Darley, Dielman, Harry Fenn, Birket Foster, Frost, W. H. Gibson, John Gilbert, Ernest W. Longfellow, Will H. Low, F. D. Millet, T. Moran, Reinhart, Remington, W. L. Sheppard, and Tenniel. The frontispiece portrait of the poet is from a photograph recently discovered and never before reproduced.

Boston, *Autumn*, 1902.

The Longfellow House, Cambridge

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW was born in Portland, Maine, February 27, 1807. He was a classmate of Hawthorne at Bowdoin College, graduating there in the class of 1825. He began the study of law in the office of his father, Hon. Stephen Longfellow; but receiving shortly the appointment of professor of modern languages at Bowdoin, he devoted himself after that to literature, and to teaching in connection with literature. Before beginning his work at Bowdoin he increased his qualifications by travel and study in Europe, where he stayed three years. Upon his return he gave his lectures on modern languages and literature at the college, and wrote occasionally for the *North American Review* and other periodicals. The first volume which he published was an *Essay on the Moral and Devotional Poetry of Spain*, accompanied by translations from Spanish verse. This was issued in 1833, but has not been kept in print as a separate work. It appears as a chapter in *Outre-Mer*, a reflection of his European life and travel, the first of his prose writings. In 1835 he was invited to succeed Mr. George Ticknor as professor of modern languages and literature at Harvard College, and again went to Europe for pre-

paratory study, giving especial attention to Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries. He held his professorship until 1854, and continued to live in Cambridge until his death, March 24, 1882, occupying a house known from a former occupant as the Craigie house, and also as Washington's headquarters, that general having so used it while organizing the army that held Boston in siege at the beginning of the Revolution. Everett, Sparks, and Worcester the lexicographer, at one time or another lived in this house, and here Longfellow wrote most of his works.

In 1839 appeared *Hyperion, a Romance*, which, with more narrative form than *Outre-Mer*, like that gave the results of a poet's entrance into the riches of the Old World life. In the same year was published *Voices of the Night*, a little volume containing chiefly poems and translations which had been printed separately in periodicals. *The Psalm of Life*, perhaps the best known of Longfellow's short poems, was in this volume, and here, too, were *The Beleaguered City* and *Footsteps of Angels*. *Ballads and other Poems* and *Poems on Slavery* appeared in 1842; *The Spanish Student*, a play in three acts, in 1843; *The Belfry of Bruges and Other Poems* in 1846; *Evangeline* in 1847; *Kavanagh, a Tale*, in prose, in 1849. Besides the various volumes comprising short poems, the list of Mr. Longfellow's works includes *The Golden Legend*, *The Song of Hiawatha*, *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, *Tales of a Wayside Inn*, *The New England Tragedies*, and a translation of Dante's *Divina Commedia*. Mr. Longfellow's literary life began in his college days, and he wrote poems almost to the day of his death. A classification of his poems and longer works would be an interesting task, and would help to disclose the wide range of his sympathy and taste; a collection of the metres which he used would show the versatility of his art, and similar studies would lead one to discover the many countries and ages to which he went for subjects. It would not be difficult to gather from the volume of Longfellow's poems hints of personal experience, that biography of the heart which is of more worth to us than any record, however full, of external change and adventure. Such hints may be found, for example, in the early lines *To the River Charles*, which may be compared with the much later *Three Friends of Mine*, iv., v.; in *A Gleam of Sunshine*, *To a Child*, *The Day is Done*, *The Fire of Driftwood*, *Resignation*, *The Open Window*, *The Ladder of St. Augustine*, *My Lost Youth*, *The Children's Hour*, *Weariness*, and other poems; not that we are to take all sentiments and statements made in the first person as the poet's, for often the form of the poem is so far dramatic that the poet is assuming a character not necessarily his own; but the recurrence of certain strains, joined with personal allusions, helps one to penetrate the slight veil with which the poet, here as elsewhere, half conceals and half reveals himself. The friendly associations of the poet may also be discovered in several poems directly addressed to persons or distinctively alluding to them, and the reader will find it pleasant to construct the companionship of the poet out of such poems as *The Herons of Elmwood*, *To William E. Channing*, *The Fiftieth Birthday of Agassiz*, *To Charles Sumner*, the *Prelude to Tales of a Wayside Inn*, and *Hawthorne*. The standard Life of Longfellow is the one written by his brother, Rev. Samuel Longfellow, in three volumes, and there is also an excellent single volume Life, by T. W. Higginson, in *American Men of Letters*.

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"But the dark foliage interweaves
In one unbroken roof of leaves"

VOICES OF THE NIGHT

Πότνια, πότνια νύξ,
ὕπνοδότριάς τῶν πολυπέπων βροτῶν,
Ἐρεβόθην ἴθι· μόλε μόλε κατάντερες
Ἀγαμέμνονι ἐπὶ δάμον·
ὑπὸ γὰρ ἀλγίων, ὑπὸ τε συμφορᾶς
διωχόμεσ', οἰχόμεθα.

EURIPIDES.

PRELUDE

PLEASANT it was, when woods were
green
And winds were soft and low,

To lie amid some sylvan scene,
Where, the long drooping boughs be-
tween,
Shadows dark and sunlight sheen
Alternate come and go ;

Or where the denser grove receives
 No sunlight from above,
 But the dark foliage interweaves
 In one unbroken roof of leaves, 10
 Underneath whose sloping eaves
 The shadows hardly move.

Beneath some patriarchal tree
 I lay upon the ground;
 His hoary arms uplifted he,
 And all the broad leaves over me
 Clapped their little hands in glee,
 With one continuous sound; —

A slumberous sound, a sound that
 brings
 The feelings of a dream, 20
 As of innumerable wings,
 As, when a bell no longer swings,
 Faint the hollow murmur rings
 O'er meadow, lake, and stream.

And dreams of that which cannot die,
 Bright visions, came to me,
 As lapped in thought I used to lie,
 And gaze into the summer sky,
 Where the sailing clouds went by,
 Like ships upon the sea; 30

Dreams that the soul of youth engage
 Ere Fancy has been quelled;
 Old legends of the monkish page,
 Traditions of the saint and sage,
 Tales that have the rime of age,
 And chronicles of eld.

And, loving still these quaint old
 themes,
 Even in the city's throng
 I feel the freshness of the streams,
 That, crossed by shades and sunny
 gleams, 40
 Water the green land of dreams,
 The holy land of song.

Therefore, at Pentecost, which brings
 The Spring, clothed like a bride,
 When nestling buds unfold their
 wings,
 And bishop's-caps have golden rings,
 Musing upon many things,
 I sought the woodlands wide.

The green trees whispered low and
 mild;
 It was a sound of joy! 50

They were my playmates when a
 child,
 And rocked me in their arms so wild!
 Still they looked at me and smiled,
 As if I were a boy;

And ever whispered, mild and low,
 "Come, be a child once more!"
 And waved their long arms to and
 fro,
 And beckoned solemnly and slow;
 Oh, I could not choose but go
 Into the woodlands hoar, — 6

Into the blithe and breathing air,
 Into the solemn wood,
 Solemn and silent everywhere!
 Nature with folded hands seemed
 there,
 Kneeling at her evening prayer!
 Like one in prayer I stood.

Before me rose an avenue
 Of tall and sombrous pines;
 Abroad their fan-like branches grew,
 And, where the sunshine darted
 through, 70
 Spread a vapor soft and blue,
 In long and sloping lines.

And, falling on my weary brain,
 Like a fast-falling shower,
 The dreams of youth came back
 again, —
 Low lisps of the summer rain,
 Dropping on the ripened grain,
 As once upon the flower.

Visions of childhood! Stay, oh, stay!
 Ye were so sweet and wild! 80
 And distant voices seemed to say,
 "It cannot be! They pass away!
 Other themes demand thy lay;
 Thou art no more a child!

"The land of Song within thee lies,
 Watered by living springs;
 The lids of Fancy's sleepless eyes
 Are gates unto that Paradise;
 Holy thoughts, like stars, arise:
 Its clouds are angels' wings. 90

"Learn, that henceforth thy song shall
 be,
 Not mountains capped with snow,
 Nor forests sounding like the sea,

Nor rivers flowing ceaselessly,
Where the woodlands bend to see
The bending heavens below.

"There is a forest where the din
Of iron branches sounds!
A mighty river roars between,
And whosoever looks therein 100
Sees the heavens all black with sin,
Sees not its depths, nor bounds.

"Athwart the swinging branches cast,
Soft rays of sunshine pour;
Then comes the fearful wintry blast;
Our hopes, like withered leaves, fall
fast;
Pallid lips say, 'It is past!
We can return no more!'

"Look, then, into thine heart, and
write!
Yes, into Life's deep stream! 110
All forms of sorrow and delight,
All solemn Voices of the Night,
That can soothe thee, or affright, —
Be these henceforth thy theme."

HYMN TO THE NIGHT

Ἕσπαςίη, τριλλιστος

I HEARD the trailing garments of the
Night
Sweep through her marble halls!
I saw her sable skirts all fringed with
light
From the celestial walls!

I felt her presence, by its spell of
might,
Stoop o'er me from above;
The calm, majestic presence of the
Night,
As of the one I love.

I heard the sounds of sorrow and de-
light.
The manifold, soft chimes,
That fill the haunted chambers of the
Night,
Like some old poet's rhymes.

From the cool cisterns of the midnight
air
My spirit drank repose;

The fountain of perpetual peace flows
there, —
From those deep cisterns flows.

O holy Night! from thee I learn to
bear
What man has borne before!
Thou layest thy finger on the lips of
Care,
And they complain no more.

Peace! Peace! Orestes-like I breathe
this prayer!
Descend with broad-winged flight,
The welcome, the thrice-prayed for,
the most fair,
The best-beloved Night!

A PSALM OF LIFE

WHAT THE HEART OF THE YOUNG
MAN SAID TO THE PSALMIST

TELL me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream! —
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and
brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act, — act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,

And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time ;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate ;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

THE REAPER AND THE FLOWERS

THERE is a Reaper, whose name is
Death,
And, with his sickle keen,
He reaps the bearded grain at a
breath,
And the flowers that grow between.

"Shall I have naught that is fair ?"
saith he ;
"Have naught but the bearded
grain ?
Though the breath of these flowers is
sweet to me,
I will give them all back again."

He gazed at the flowers with tearful
eyes,
He kissed their drooping leaves ;
It was for the Lord of Paradise
He bound them in his sheaves.

"My Lord has need of these flowerets
gay,"
The Reaper said, and smiled ;
"Dear tokens of the earth are they,
Where He was once a child.

"They shall all bloom in fields of
light,
Transplanted by my care,
And saints, upon their garments white,
These sacred blossoms wear."

And the mother gave, in tears and
pain,
The flowers she most did love ;
She knew she should find them all
again
In the fields of light above.

Oh, not in cruelty, not in wrath,
The Reaper came that day ;
'T was an angel visited the green
earth,
And took the flowers away.

THE LIGHT OF STARS

THE night is come, but not too
soon ;
And sinking silently,
All silently, the little moon
Drops down behind the sky.

There is no light in earth or heaven
But the cold light of stars ;
And the first watch of night is given
To the red planet Mars.

Is it the tender star of love ?
The star of love and dreams ?
Oh no ! from that blue tent above
A hero's armor gleams.

And earnest thoughts within me
rise,
When I behold afar,
Suspended in the evening skies,
The shield of that red star.

O star of strength ! I see thee stand
And smile upon my pain ;
Thou beckonest with thy mailed
hand,
And I am strong again.

Within my breast there is no light
But the cold light of stars ;
I give the first watch of the night
To the red planet Mars.

The star of the unconquered will,
He rises in my breast,
Serene, and resolute, and still,
And calm, and self-possessed.

And thou, too, whosoe'er thou art,
That readest this brief psalm,
As one by one thy hopes depart,
Be resolute and calm.

Oh, fear not in a world like this,
And thou shalt know ere long,
Know how sublime a thing it is
To suffer and be strong.

FOOTSTEPS OF ANGELS

When the hours of Day are num-
bered,
And the voices of the Night
Wake the better soul, that slumbered,
To a holy, calm delight;

Ere the evening lamps are lighted,
And, like phantoms grim and tall,
Shadows from the fitful firelight
Dance upon the parlor wall;

More than all things else to love me,
And is now a saint in heaven.

With a slow and noiseless footstep
Comes that messenger divine,
Takes the vacant chair beside me,
Lays her gentle hand in mine.

And she sits and gazes at me
With those deep and tender eyes,
Like the stars, so still and saint-like,
Looking downward from the skies.

"The night is come, but not too soon"

Then the forms of the departed
Enter at the open door;
The beloved, the true-hearted,
Come to visit me once more;

He, the young and strong, who cher-
ished
Noble longings for the strife,
By the roadside fell and perished,
Weary with the march of life!

They, the holy ones and weakly,
Who the cross of suffering bore,
Folded their pale hands so meekly,
Spoke with us on earth, no more!

And with them the Being Beauteous,
Who unto my youth was given,

Uttered not, yet comprehended,
Is the spirit's voiceless prayer,
Soft rebukes, in blessings ended,
Breathing from her lips of air.

Oh, though oft depressed and lonely,
All my fears are laid aside,
If I but remember only
Such as these have lived and died!

FLOWERS

Spoke full well, in language quaint
and olden,
One who dwelleth by the castled
Rhine,

When he called the flowers, so blue
and golden,
Stars, that in earth's firmament do
shine.

Stars they are, wherein we read our
history,
As astrologers and seers of eld;
Yet not wrapped about with awful
mystery,
Like the burning stars, which they
beheld.

Wondrous truths, and manifold as
wondrous,
God hath written in those stars
above;
But not less in the bright flowerets
under us
Stands the revelation of his love.

Bright and glorious is that revelation,
Written all over this great world of
ours;
Making evident our own creation,
In these stars of earth, these golden
flowers.

And the Poet, faithful and far-seeing,
Sees, alike in stars and flowers, a part
Of the self-same, universal being,
Which is throbbing in his brain and
heart.

Gorgeous flowerets in the sunlight
shining,
Blossoms flaunting in the eye of
day,
Tremulous leaves, with soft and sil-
ver lining,
Buds that open only to decay;

Brilliant hopes, all woven in gorgeous
tissues,
Flaunting gayly in the golden light;
Large desires, with most uncertain is-
sues,
Tender wishes, blossoming at night!

These in flowers and men are more than
seeming,
Workings are they of the self-same
powers,
Which the Poet, in no idle dream-
ing,
Seeth in himself and in the flowers.

Everywhere about us are they glow-
ing,
Some like stars, to tell us Spring is
born;
Others, their blue eyes with tears o'er-
flowing,
Stand like Ruth amid the golden
corn;

Not alone in Spring's armorial bear-
ing,
And in Summer's green-emblazoned
field,
But in arms of brave old Autumn's
wearing,
In the centre of his brazen shield;

Not alone in meadows and green al-
leys,
On the mountain-top, and by the
brink
Of sequestered pools in woodland val-
leys,
Where the slaves of nature stoop to
drink;

Not alone in her vast dome of glory,
Not on graves of bird and beast
alone,
But in old cathedrals, high and hoary,
On the tombs of heroes, carved in
stone;

In the cottage of the rudest peasant,
In ancestral homes, whose crum-
bling towers,
Speaking of the Past unto the Present,
Tell us of the ancient Games of
Flowers;

In all places, then, and in all sea-
sons,
Flowers expand their light and soul-
like wings,
Teaching us, by most persuasive rea-
sons,
How akin they are to human things.

And with childlike, credulous affec-
tion,
We behold their tender buds ex-
pand;
Emblems of our own great resurrec-
tion,
Emblems of the bright and better
land.

THE BELEAGUERED CITY

I HAVE read, in some old, marvellous
tale,

Some legend strange and vague,
That a midnight host of spectres pale
Beleaguered the walls of Prague.

Beside the Moldau's rushing stream,
With the wan moon overhead,
There stood, as in an awful dream,
The army of the dead.

White as a sea-fog, landward bound,
The spectral camp was seen, 10
And, with a sorrowful, deep sound,
The river flowed between.

Down the broad valley fast and far
The troubled army fled ;
Up rose the glorious morning star,
The ghastly host was dead.

I have read, in the marvellous heart
of man,
That strange and mystic scroll,
That an army of phantoms vast and
wan
Beleaguer the human soul.

Encamped beside Life's rushing
stream,
In Fancy's misty light, 20
Gigantic shapes and shadows gleam
Portentous through the night.

" Beside the Moldau's rushing stream,
With the wan moon overhead "

No other voice nor sound was there,
No drum, nor sentry's pace ;
The mist-like banners clasped the air
As clouds with clouds embrace.

But when the old cathedral bell
Proclaimed the morning prayer,
The white pavilions rose and fell
On the alarmed air. 30

Upon its midnight battle-ground
The spectral camp is seen,
And, with a sorrowful, deep sound,
Flows the River of Life between.

No other voice nor sound is there,
In the army of the grave ;
No other challenge breaks the air,
But the rushing of Life's wave. 40

And when the solemn and deep church-
bell

Entreats the soul to pray,
The midnight phantoms feel the spell,
The shadows sweep away.

Down the broad Vale of Tears afar
The spectral camp is fled ;
Faith shineth as a morning star,
Our ghastly fears are dead.

MIDNIGHT MASS FOR THE DYING YEAR

Yes, the Year is growing old,
And his eye is pale and bleared !
Death, with frosty hand and cold,
Plucks the old man by the beard,
Sorely, sorely !

The leaves are falling, falling,
Solemnly and slow ;
Caw ! caw ! the rooks are calling,
It is a sound of woe,
A sound of woe ! 10

Through woods and mountain passes
The winds, like anthems, roll ;
They are chanting solemn masses,
Singing, " Pray for this poor soul,
Pray, pray ! "

And the hooded clouds, like friars,
Tell their beads in drops of rain,
And patter their doleful prayers ;
But their prayers are all in vain,
All in vain ! 20

There he stands in the foul weather,
The foolish, fond Old Year,
Crowned with wild flowers and with
heather,
Like weak, despised Lear
A king, a king !

Then comes the summer-like day,
Bids the old man rejoice !
His joy ! his last ! Oh, the old man
gray
Loveth that ever-soft voice,
Gentle and low. 30

To the crimson woods he saith,
To the voice gentle and low
Of the soft air, like a daughter's
breath,
" Pray do not mock me so !
Do not laugh at me ! "

And now the sweet day is dead ;
Cold in his arms it lies ;
No stain from its breath is spread
Over the glassy skies,
No mist or stain ! 40

Then, too, the Old Year dieth,
And the forests utter a moan,
Like the voice of one who crieth
In the wilderness alone,
" Vex not his ghost ! "

Then comes, with an awful roar,
Gathering and sounding on,
The storm-wind from Labrador,
The wind Euroclydon,
The storm-wind ! 50

Howl ! howl ! and from the forest
Sweep the red leaves away !
Would the sins that thou abhorrest,
O soul ! could thus decay,
And be swept away !

For there shall come a mightier blast,
There shall be a darker day ;
And the stars, from heaven down-
cast
Like red leaves be swept away !
Kyrie, eleyson ! 60
Christe, eleyson !

" Came winding down beside the wave,
To lay the red chief in his grave "

EARLIER POEMS

AN APRIL DAY

WHEN the warm sun, that brings
Seed-time and harvest, has returned
again,
Tis sweet to visit the still wood,
where springs
The first flower of the plain.

I love the season well,
When forest glades are teeming with
bright forms,
Nor dark and many-folded clouds fore-
tell
The coming-on of storms.

From the earth's loosened mould
The sapling draws its sustenance, and
thrives ;

Though stricken to the heart with
winter's cold,
The drooping tree revives.

The softly-warbled song
Comes from the pleasant woods, and
colored wings
Glance quick in the bright sun, that
moves along
The forest openings.

When the bright sunset fills
The silver woods with light, the green
slope throws
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,
And wide the upland glows.

And when the eve is born,
In the blue lake the sky, o'er-reaching
far,

Is hollowed out, and the moon dips her
horn,
And twinkles many a star.

Inverted in the tide
Stand the gray rocks, and trembling
shadows throw,
And the fair trees look over, side by
side,
And see themselves below.

Sweet April! many a thought
Is wedded unto thee, as hearts are wed;
Nor shall they fail, till, to its autumn
brought,
Life's golden fruit is shed.

AUTUMN

With what a glory comes and goes
the year!
The buds of spring, those beautiful
harbingers
Of sunny skies and cloudless times,
enjoy
Life's newness, and earth's garniture
spread out;
And when the silver habit of the clouds
Comes down upon the autumn sun,
and with
A sober gladness the old year takes up
His bright inheritance of golden fruits,
A pomp and pageant fill the splendid
scene.

There is a beautiful spirit breathing
now
Its mellow richness on the clustered
trees,
And, from a beaker full of richest
dyes,
Pouring new glory on the autumn
woods,
And dipping in warm light the pillared
clouds.
Morn on the mountain, like a summer
bird,
Lifts up her purple wing, and in the
vales
The gentle wind, a sweet and passion-
ate wooer,
Kisses the blushing leaf, and stirs up
life
Within the solemn woods of ash deep-
crimsoned,

And silver beech, and maple yellow-
leaved,
Where Autumn, like a faint old man,
sits down
By the wayside a-weary. Through
the trees
The golden robin moves. The purple
finch,
That on wild cherry and red cedar
feeds,
A winter bird, comes with its plain-
tive whistle,
And pecks by the witch-hazel, whilst
aloud
From cottage roofs the warbling blue-
bird sings,
And merrily, with oft-repeated stroke,
Sounds from the threshing-floor the
busy flail.

Oh, what a glory doth this world
put on
For him who, with a fervent heart,
goes forth
Under the bright and glorious sky, and
looks
On duties well performed, and days
well spent!
For him the wind, ay, and the yellow
leaves,
Shall have a voice, and give him elo-
quent teachings.
He shall so hear the solemn hymn that
Death
Has lifted up for all, that he shall go
To his long resting-place without a
tear.

WOODS IN WINTER

When winter winds are piercing chill,
And through the hawthorn blows
the gale,
With solemn feet I tread the hill,
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away
Through the long reach of desert
woods,
The embracing sunbeams chastely
play,
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,
The summer vine in beauty clung,

HYMN OF THE MORAVIAN NUNS OF BETHLEHEM 11

And summer winds the stillness broke,
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns, mute
springs

Pour out the river's gradual tide,
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,
And voices fill the woodland side.

And gathering winds, in hoarse ac-
cord,
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear
Has grown familiar with your song,
I hear it in the opening year,
I listen, and it cheers me long.

"O'er the bare upland and away"

Alas! how changed from the fair
scene,

When birds sang out their mellow
lay,

And winds were soft, and woods were
green,

And the song ceased not with the
day!

But still wild music is abroad,
Pale, desert woods! within your
crowd;

HYMN OF THE MORAVIAN NUNS OF BETHLEHEM

AT THE CONSECRATION OF PULASKI'S
BANNER

WHEN the dying flame of day
Through the chancel shot its ray,
Far the glimmering tapers shed
Faint light on the cowlèd head;
And the censer burning swung,
Where, before the altar, hung

The crimson banner, that with prayer
Had been consecrated there.
And the nuns' sweet hymn was heard
the while,
Sung low, in the dim, mysterious aisle.

"Take thy banner! May it wave
Proudly o'er the good and brave;
When the battle's distant wail
Breaks the sabbath of our vale,
When the clarion's music thrills
To the hearts of these lone hills,
When the spear in conflict shakes,
And the strong lance shivering
breaks.

"Take thy banner! and, beneath
The battle-cloud's encircling wreath,
Guard it, till our homes are free!
Guard it! God will prosper thee!
In the dark and trying hour,
In the breaking forth of power,
In the rush of steeds and men,
His right hand will shield thee then.

"Take thy banner! But when night
Closes round the ghastly fight,
If the vanquished warrior bow,
Spare him! By our holy vow,
By our prayers and many tears,
By the mercy that endears,
Spare him! he our love hath shared!
Spare him! as thou wouldst be
spared!

"Take thy banner! and if e'er
Thou shouldst press the soldier's bier,
And the muffled drum should beat
To the tread of mournful feet,
Then this crimson flag shall be
Martial cloak and shroud for thee."

The warrior took that banner proud,
And it was his martial cloak and
shroud!

SUNRISE ON THE HILLS

I stood upon the hills, when hea-
ven's wide arch
Was glorious with the sun's returning
march,
And woods were brightened, and soft
gales
Went forth to kiss the sun-clad vales.

The clouds were far beneath me;
bathed in light,
They gathered midway round the
wooded height,
And, in their fading glory, shone
Like hosts in battle overthrown,
As many a pinnacle, with shifting
glance,
Through the gray mist thrust up its
shattered lance,
And rocking on the cliff was left
The dark pine blasted, bare, and cleft.
The veil of cloud was lifted, and below
Glowed the rich valley, and the riv-
er's flow
Was darkened by the forest's shade,
Or glistened in the white cascade;
Where upward, in the mellow blush of
day,
The noisy bittern wheeled his spiral
way.

I heard the distant waters dash,
I saw the current whirl and flash,
And richly, by the blue lake's silver
beach,
The woods were bending with a silent
reach.
Then o'er the vale, with gentle swell,
The music of the village bell
Came sweetly to the echo-giving hills;
And the wild horn, whose voice the
woodland fills,
Was ringing to the merry shout
That faint and far the glen sent out,
Where, answering to the sudden shot,
thin smoke,
Through thick-leaved branches, from
the dingle broke.

If thou art worn and hard beset
With sorrows, that thou wouldst for-
get,
If thou wouldst read a lesson, that
will keep
Thy heart from fainting and thy soul
from sleep,
Go to the woods and hills! No tears
Dim the sweet look that Nature wears.

THE SPIRIT OF POETRY

THERE is a quiet spirit in these woods,
That dwells where'er the gentle south-
wind blows;

Where, underneath the white-thorn in
the glade,
The wild flowers bloom, or, kissing
the soft air,
The leaves above their sunny palms
outspread.
With what a tender and impassioned
voice
It fills the nice and delicate ear of
thought,
When the fast ushering star of morn-
ing comes
O'er-riding the gray hills with golden
scarf;
Or when the cowed and dusky-san-
dalled Eve,
In mourning weeds, from out the
western gate,
Departs with silent pace ! That spirit
moves
In the green valley, where the silver
brook,
From its full laver, pours the white
cascade;
And, babbling low amid the tangled
woods,
Slips down through moss-grown stones
with endless laughter.
And frequent, on the everlasting hills,
Its feet go forth, when it doth wrap
itself
In all the dark embroidery of the storm,
And shouts the stern, strong wind.
And here, amid
The silent majesty of these deep
woods,
Its presence shall uplift thy thoughts
from earth,
As to the sunshine and the pure, bright
air
Their tops the green trees lift. Hence
gifted bards
Have ever loved the calm and quiet
shades.
For them there was an eloquent voice
in all
The sylvan pomp of woods, the golden
sun,
The flowers, the leaves, the river on
its way,
Blue skies, and silver clouds, and gen-
tle winds,
The swelling upland, where the side-
long sun
Aslant the wooded slope, at evening,
goes,

Groves, through whose broken roof
the sky looks in,
Mountain, and shattered cliff, and
sunny vale,
The distant lake, fountains, and
mighty trees,
In many a lazy syllable, repeating
Their old poetic legends to the wind.

And this is the sweet spirit, that
doth fill
The world ; and, in these wayward
days of youth,
My busy fancy oft embodies it,
As a bright image of the light and
beauty
That dwell in nature ; of the heavenly
forms
We worship in our dreams, and the
soft hues
That stain the wild bird's wing, and
flush the clouds
When the sun sets. Within her ten-
der eye
The heaven of April, with its changing
light,
And when it wears the blue of May,
is hung,
And on her lip the rich, red rose. Her
hair
Is like the summer tresses of the trees,
When twilight makes them brown,
and on her cheek
Blushes the richness of an autumn
sky,
With ever-shifting beauty. Then her
breath,
It is so like the gentle air of Spring,
As, from the morning's dewy flowers,
it comes
Full of their fragrance, that it is a
joy
To have it round us, and her silver
voice
Is the rich music of a summer bird,
Heard in the still night, with its pas-
sionate cadence.

BURIAL OF THE MINNISINK

ON sunny slope and beechen swell,
The shadowed light of evening fell ;
And, where the maple's leaf was
brown,
With soft and silent lapse came down,

The glory, that the wood receives,
At sunset, in its golden leaves.

Far upward in the mellow light
Rose the blue hills. One cloud of
white,
Around a far uplifted cone.
In the warm blush of evening shone; 10
An image of the silver lakes,
By which the Indian's soul awakes.

But soon a funeral hymn was heard
Where the soft breath of evening
stirred

The tall, gray forest; and a band
Of stern in heart, and strong in
hand,

Came winding down beside the
wave,

To lay the red chief in his grave.

They sang, that by his native bowers
He stood, in the last moon of flowers,
And thirty snows had not yet shed 21
Their glory on the warrior's head;
But, as the summer fruit decays,
So died he in those naked days.

A dark cloak of the roebuck's skin
Covered the warrior, and within
Its heavy folds the weapons, made
For the hard toils of war, were laid;
The cuirass, woven of plaited reeds,
And the broad belt of shells and
beads. 30

Before, a dark-haired virgin train
Chanted the death dirge of the slain;
Behind, the long procession came
Of hoary men and chiefs of fame,
With heavy hearts, and eyes of
grief,
Leading the war-horse of their chief.

Stripped of his proud and martial dress,
Uncurbed, unreined, and riderless,
With darting eye, and nostril spread,
And heavy and impatient tread, 40
He came; and oft that eye so proud
Asked for his rider in the crowd.

They buried the dark chief; they freed
Beside the grave his battle steed;
And swift an arrow cleaved its way
To his stern heart! One piercing
neigh
Arose, and, on the dead man's plain,
The rider grasps his steed again.

L'ENVOI

YE voices, that arose
After the Evening's close,
And whispered to my restless heart re-
pose!

Go, breathe it in the ear
Of all who doubt and fear,
And say to them, "Be of good cheer!"

Ye sounds, so low and calm,
That in the groves of balm
Seemed to me like an angel's psalm!

Go, mingle yet once more
With the perpetual roar
Of the pine forest, dark and hoar!

Tongues of the dead, not lost,
But speaking from death's frost,
Like fiery tongues at Pentecost!

Glimmer, as funeral lamps,
Amid the chills and damps
Of the vast plain where Death en-
camps!

"A wooed the blue-eyed maid,
Yielding, yet half afraid"

BALLADS AND OTHER POEMS

THE SKELETON IN ARMOR

"SPEAK! speak! thou fearful guest!
Who, with thy hollow breast
Still in rude armor drest,
Comest to daunt me!
Wrapt not in Eastern balms,
But with thy fleshless palms
Stretched, as if asking alms,
Why dost thou haunt me?"

Then, from those cavernous eyes
Pale flashes seemed to rise,
As when the Northern skies
Gleam in December;
And, like the water's flow
Under December's snow,

Came a dull voice of woe
From the heart's chamber.

"I was a Viking old!
My deeds, though manifold,
No Skald in song has told,
No Saga taught thee!
Take heed, that in thy verse
Thou dost the tale rehearse,
Else dread a dead man's curse;
For this I sought thee.

"Far in the Northern Land,
By the wild Baltic's strand,
I, with my childish hand,
Tamed the gervalcon;
And, with my skates fast-bound
Skimmed the half-frozen Sound,

That the poor whimpering hound
Trembled to walk on.

"Oft to his frozen lair
Tracked I the grisly bear,
While from my path the hare
Fled like a shadow ;
Oft through the forest dark
Followed the were-wolf's bark,
Until the soaring lark
Sang from the meadow.

40

"But when I older grew,
Joining a corsair's crew,
O'er the dark sea I flew
With the marauders.
Wild was the life we led ;
Many the souls that sped,
Many the hearts that bled,
By our stern orders.

"Many a wassail-bout
Wore the long Winter out ;
Often our midnight shout
Set the cocks crowing,
As we the Berserk's tale
Measured in cups of ale,
Draining the oaken pail,
Filled to o'erflowing.

50

"Once as I told in glee
Tales of the stormy sea,
Soft eyes did gaze on me,
Burning yet tender ;
And as the white stars shine
On the dark Norway pine,
On that dark heart of mine
Fell their soft splendor.

60

"I wooed the blue-eyed maid,
Yielding, yet half afraid,
And in the forest's shade
Our vows were plighted.
Under its loosened vest
Fluttered her little breast,
Like birds within their nest
By the hawk frightened.

70

"Bright in her father's hall
Shields gleamed upon the wall,
Loud sang the minstrels all,
Chanting his glory ;
When of old Hildebrand
I asked his daughter's hand,
Mute did the minstrels stand
To hear my story.

80

"While the brown ale he quaffed,
Loud then the champion laughed,
And as the wind-gusts waft
The sea-foam brightly,
So the loud laugh of scorn,
Out of those lips unshorn,
From the deep drinking-horn
Blew the foam lightly.

"She was a Prince's child,
I but a Viking wild, 90
And though she blushed and smiled,
I was discarded !
Should not the dove so white
Follow the sea-mew's flight,
Why did they leave that night
Her nest unguarded ?

"Scarce had I put to sea,
Bearing the maid with me,
Fairest of all was she
Among the Norsemen ! 100
When on the white sea-strand,
Waving his armed hand,
Saw we old Hildebrand,
With twenty horsemen.

"Then launched they to the blast,
Bent like a reed each mast,
Yet we were gaining fast,
When the wind failed us ;
And with a sudden flaw
Came round the gusty Skaw, 110
So that our foe we saw
Laugh as he hailed us.

"And as to catch the gale
Round veered the flapping sail,
'Death!' was the helmsman's hail,
'Death without quarter !'
Mid-ships with iron keel
Struck we her ribs of steel ;
Down her black hulk did reel
Through the black water ! 120

"As with his wings aslant,
Sails the fierce cormorant,
Seeking some rocky haunt,
With his prey laden, —
So toward the open main,
Beating to sea again,
Through the wild hurricane,
Bore I the maiden.

"Three weeks we westward bore
And when the storm was o'er, 130

Cloud-like we saw the shore
 Stretching to leeward ;
 There for my lady's bower
 Built I the lofty tower,
 Which, to this very hour,
 Stands looking seaward.

"There lived we many years;
 Time dried the maiden's tears ;
 She had forgot her fears,
 She was a mother ; 140
 Death closed her mild blue eyes,
 Under that tower she lies ;
 Ne'er shall the sun arise
 On such another !

"Still grew my bosom then,
 Still as a stagnant fen !
 Hateful to me were men,
 The sunlight hateful !
 In the vast forest here,
 Clad in my warlike gear, 150
 Fell I upon my spear,
 Oh, death was grateful !

"Thus, seamed with many scars,
 Bursting these prison bars,
 Up to its native stars
 My soul ascended !
 There from the flowing bowl
 Deep drinks the warrior's soul,
Skoal ! to the Northland ! skoal !" 160
 Thus the tale ended.

THE WRECK OF THE HESPERUS

It was the schooner Hesperus,
 That sailed the wintry sea ;
 And the skipper had taken his little
 daughter,
 To bear him company.

Blue were her eyes as the fairy-
 flax,
 Her cheeks like the dawn of
 day,
 And her bosom white as the hawthorn
 buds,
 That ope in the month of May.

The skipper he stood beside the helm,
 His pipe was in his mouth, 10
 And he watched how the veering flaw
 did blow
 The smoke now West, now South.

Then up and spake an old Sailør,
 Had sailed to the Spanish Main,
 "I pray thee, put into yonder port,
 For I fear a hurricane.

"Last night, the moon had a golden
 ring,
 And to-night no moon we see !"
 The skipper, he blew a whiff from his
 pipe,
 And a scornful laugh laughed he.

Colder and louder blew the wind, 21
 A gale from the Northeast,
 The snow fell hissing in the brine,
 And the billows frothed like yeast.

Down came the storm, and smote
 amain
 The vessel in its strength ;
 She shuddered and paused, like a
 frightened steed,
 Then leaped her cable's length.

"Come hither ! come hither ! my little
 daughter,
 And do not tremble so ; 30
 For I can weather the roughest gale
 That ever wind did blow."

He wrapped her warm in his seaman's
 coat
 Against the stinging blast ;
 He cut a rope from a broken spar,
 And bound her to the mast.

"O father ! I hear the church-bells
 ring,
 Oh say, what may it be ?"
 "'Tis a fog-bell on a rock-bound
 coast !" —
 And he steered for the open sea. 40

"O father ! I hear the sound of guns,
 Oh say, what may it be ?"
 "Some ship in distress, that cannot
 live
 In such an angry sea !"

"O father ! I see a gleaming light,
 Oh say, what may it be ?"
 But the father answered never a word,
 A frozen corpse was he.

Lashed to the helm, all stiff and stark,
 With his face turned to the skies, 50

The lantern gleamed through the
gleaming snow
On his fixed and glassy eyes.

Then the maiden clasped her hands
and prayed
That saved she might be ;
And she thought of Christ, who stilled
the wave,
On the Lake of Galilee.

And fast through the midnight dark
and drear,
Through the whistling sleet and
snow,
Like a sheeted ghost, the vessel swept
Tow'rd the reef of Norman's
Woe. 60

And ever the fitful gusts between
A sound came from the land ;
It was the sound of the trampling
surf
On the rocks and the hard sea-sand.

The breakers were right beneath her
bows,
She drifted a dreary wreck,
And a whooping billow swept the
crew
Like icicles from her deck.

She struck where the white and fleecy
waves
Looked soft as carded wool, 70
But the cruel rocks, they gored her
side
Like the horns of an angry bull.

Her rattling shrouds, all sheathed in
ice,
With the masts went by the board ;
Like a vessel of glass, she stove and
sank,
Ho ! ho ! the breakers roared !

At daybreak, on the bleak sea-beach,
A fisherman stood aghast,
To see the form of a maiden fair,
Lashed close to a drifting mast. 80

The salt sea was frozen on her breast,
The salt tears in her eyes ;
And he saw her hair, like the brown
sea-weed,
On the billows fall and rise.

Such was the wreck of the Hesperus,
In the midnight and the snow !
Christ save us all from a death like
this,
On the reef of Norman's Woe !

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

UNDER a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands ;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands ;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and
long,
His face is like the tan ;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can, 10
And looks the whole world in the
face,
For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn till
night,
You can hear his bellows blow ;
You can hear him swing his heavy
sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village
bell,
When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door ; 20
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that
fly
Like chaff from a threshing-floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys ;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice,
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice. 30

It sounds to him like her mother's
voice,
Singing in Paradise !
He needs must think of her once
more,
How in the grave she lies ;

"And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door"

And with his hard, rough hand he
wipes
A tear out of his eyes.

Toiling, — rejoicing, — sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy
friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught!

Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought.

ENDYMION

THE rising moon has hid the stars,
Her level rays, like golden bars,
Lie on the landscape green,
With shadows brown between.

And silver white the river gleams.
As if Diana, in her dreams

Had dropt her silver bow
Upon the meadows low.

On such a tranquil night as this,
She woke Endymion with a kiss,
When, sleeping in the grove,
He dreamed not of her love.

Like Dian's kiss, unasked, unsought,
Love gives itself, but is not bought;
Nor voice, nor sound betrays
Its deep, impassioned gaze.

It comes, — the beautiful, the free,
The crown of all humanity, —
In silence and alone
To seek the elected one.

It lifts the boughs, whose shadows
deep
Are Life's oblivion, the soul's sleep,
And kisses the closed eyes
Of him who slumbering lies.

O weary hearts! O slumbering eyes!
O drooping souls, whose destinies
Are fraught with fear and pain,
Ye shall be loved again!

No one is so accursed by fate,
No one so utterly desolate,
But some heart, though unknown,
Responds unto his own.

Responds, — as if with unseen wings,
An angel touched its quivering strings;
And whispers, in its song,
"Where hast thou stayed so
long?"

IT IS NOT ALWAYS MAY

No hay pájaros en los nidos de antaño.
Spanish Proverb.

THE sun is bright, — the air is clear,
The darting swallows soar and
sing,
And from the stately elms I hear
The bluebird prophesying Spring.

So blue yon winding river flows,
It seems an outlet from the sky,
Where, waiting till the west wind
blows,
The freighted clouds at anchor lie.

All things are new; — the buds, the
leaves,
That gild the elm-tree's nodding
crest,
And even the nest beneath the eaves; —
There are no birds in last year's
nest!

All things rejoice in youth and love,
The fulness of their first delight!
And learn from the soft heavens above
The melting tenderness of night.

Maiden, that read'st this simple rhyme,
Enjoy thy youth, it will not stay;
Enjoy the fragrance of thy prime,
For oh, it is not always May!

Enjoy the Spring of Love and Youth,
To some good angel leave the rest;
For Time will teach thee soon the
truth,
There are no birds in last year's nest!

THE RAINY DAY

THE day is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the moulder-
ing wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
My thoughts still cling to the moulder-
ing Past,
But the hopes of youth fall thick in
the blast,
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shin-
ing;

Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and
dreary.

GOD'S-ACRE

I LIKE that ancient Saxon phrase,
which calls
The burial-ground God's-Acre! It
is just;

It consecrates each grave within its
walls,
And breathes a benison o'er the
sleeping dust.

God's-Acre! Yes, that blessed name
imparts

Comfort to those who in the grave
have sown

The seed that they had garnered in
their hearts,

Their bread of life, alas! no more
their own.

With thy rude ploughshare, Death,
turn up the sod,

And spread the furrow for the seed
we sow ;

This is the field and Acre of our God,
This is the place where human har-
vests grow.

TO THE RIVER CHARLES

RIVER ! that in silence windest
Through the meadows, bright and
free,

" River ! that in silence windest
Through the meadows, bright and free "

into its furrows shall we all be cast,
In the sure faith, that we shall rise
again

At the great harvest, when the arch-
angel's blast

Shall winnow, like a fan, the chaff
and grain.

Then shall the good stand in immortal
bloom,

In the fair gardens of that second
birth ;

And each bright blossom mingle its
perfume

With that of flowers, which never
bloomed on earth.

Till at length thy rest thou findest
In the bosom of the sea !

Four long years of mingled feel-
ing,

Half in rest, and half in strife,
I have seen thy waters stealing
Onward, like the stream of life.

Thou hast taught me, Silent River !

Many a lesson, deep and long ;
Thou hast been a generous giver :
I can give thee but a song.

Oft in sadness and in illness,
I have watched thy current glide,

Till the beauty of its stillness
Overflowed me, like a tide.

And in better hours and brighter,
When I saw thy waters gleam,
I have felt my heart beat lighter,
And leap onward with thy stream.

Not for this alone I love thee,
Nor because thy waves of blue
From celestial seas above thee
Take their own celestial hue.

Where yon shadowy woodlands hide
thee,
And thy waters disappear,
Friends I love have dwelt beside thee,
And have made thy margin dear.

More than this; — thy name reminds
me
Of three friends, all true and tried;
And that name, like magic, binds me
Closer, closer to thy side.

Friends my soul with joy remembers!
How like quivering flames they
start,
When I fan the living embers
On the hearth-stone of my heart!

'T is for this, thou Silent River!
That my spirit leans to thee;
Thou hast been a generous giver,
Take this idle song from me.

BLIND BARTIMEUS

BLIND Bartimeus at the gates
Of Jericho in darkness waits;
He hears the crowd; — he hears a
breath
Say, "It is Christ of Nazareth!"
And calls, in tones of agony,
Ἰησοῦ, ἐλέησόν με!

The thronging multitudes increase;
Blind Bartimeus, hold thy peace!
But still, above the noisy crowd,
The beggar's cry is shrill and loud;
Until they say, "He calleth thee!"
Θάρσει· ἔγειραι, φωνεῖ σε!

Then saith the Christ, as silent stands
The crowd, "What wilt thou at my
hands?"

And he replies, "Oh, give me light!
Rabbi, restore the blind man's sight."
And Jesus answers, *Ἵπαγε·
Ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε!*

Ye that have eyes, yet cannot see,
In darkness and in misery,
Recall those mighty Voices Three,
*Ἰησοῦ, ἐλέησόν με!
Θάρσει· ἔγειραι, ὕπαγε!
Ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε!*

THE GOBLET OF LIFE

FILLED is Life's goblet to the brim;
And though my eyes with tears are
dim,
I see its sparkling bubbles swim,
And chant a melancholy hymn
With solemn voice and slow.

No purple flowers, — no garlands
green,
Conceal the goblet's shade or sheen,
Nor maddening draughts of Hippo-
crene,
Like gleams of sunshine, flash between
Thick leaves of mistletoe. 10

This goblet, wrought with curious
art,
Is filled with waters, that upstart,
When the deep fountains of the heart
By strong convulsions rent apart,
Are running all to waste.

And as it mantling passes round,
With fennel is it wreathed and
crowned,
Whose seed and foliage sun-im-
browned
Are in its waters steeped and drowned,
And give a bitter taste. 20

Above the lowly plants it towers,
The fennel, with its yellow flowers,
And in an earlier age than ours
Was gifted with the wondrous powers,
Lost vision to restore.

It gave new strength, and fearless
mood;
And gladiators, fierce and rude,
Mingled it in their daily food;
And he who battled and subdued,
A wreath of fennel wore. 30

Then in Life's goblet freely press
The leaves that give it bitterness,
Nor prize the colored waters less,
For in thy darkness and distress
New light and strength they give!

And he who has not learned to know
How false its sparkling bubbles show,
How bitter are the drops of woe,
With which its brim may overflow,
He has not learned to live. 40

The prayer of Ajax was for light;
Through all that dark and desperate
fight,
The blackness of that noonday night,
He asked but the return of sight,
To see his foeman's face.

Let our unceasing, earnest prayer
Be, too, for light, — for strength to
bear
Our portion of the weight of care,
That crushes into dumb despair
One half the human race. 50

O suffering, sad humanity!
O ye afflicted ones, who lie
Steeped to the lips in misery,
Longing, and yet afraid to die,
Patient, though sorely tried!

I pledge you in this cup of grief,
Where floats the fennel's bitter leaf!
The Battle of our Life is brief,
The alarm, — the struggle, — the relief,
Then sleep we side by side. 60

MAIDENHOOD

MAIDEN! with the meek, brown eyes,
In whose orbs a shadow lies
Like the dusk in evening skies!

Thou whose locks outshine the sun,
Golden tresses, wreathed in one,
As the braided streamlets run!

Standing, with reluctant feet,
Where the brook and river meet,
Womanhood and childhood fleet!

Gazing, with a timid glance, 10
On the brooklet's swift advance,
On the river's broad expanse!

Deep and still, that gliding stream
Beautiful to thee must seem,
As the river of a dream.

Then why pause with indecision,
When bright angels in thy vision
Beckon thee to fields Elysian?

Seest thou shadows sailing by,
As the dove, with startled eye, 20
Sees the falcon's shadow fly?

Hearest thou voices on the shore,
That our ears perceive no more,
Deafened by the cataract's roar?

Oh, thou child of many prayers!
Life hath quicksands, — Life hath
snares!

Care and age come unawares!

Like the swell of some sweet tune,
Morning rises into noon,
May glides onward into June. 30

Childhood is the bough, where slum-
bered
Birds and blossoms many-numbered; —
Age, that bough with snows encum-
bered.

Gather, then, each flower that grows,
When the young heart overflows,
To embalm that tent of snows.

Bear a lily in thy hand;
Gates of brass cannot withstand
One touch of that magic wand.

Bear through sorrow, wrong, and ruth,
In thy heart the dew of youth, 40
On thy lips the smile of truth.

Oh, that dew, like balm, shall steal
Into wounds that cannot heal,
Even as sleep our eyes doth seal;

And that smile, like sunshine, dart
Into many a sunless heart,
For a smile of God thou art.

EXCELSIOR

THE shades of night were falling fast,
As through an Alpine village passed

A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and
ice,
A banner with the strange device,
Excelsior!

His brow was sad; his eye beneath,
Flashed like a falchion from its sheath,
And like a silver clarion rung
The accents of that unknown tongue,
Excelsior!

In happy homes he saw the light
Of household fires gleam warm and
bright;
Above, the spectral glaciers shone,
And from his lips escaped a groan,
Excelsior!

A tear stood in his bright blue eye,
But still he answered, with a sigh,
Excelsior!

"Beware the pine-tree's withered
branch!
Beware the awful avalanche!"
This was the peasant's last Good-
night,
A voice replied, far up the height,
Excelsior!

At break of day, as heavenward
The pious monks of Saint Bernard
Uttered the oft-repeated prayer,
A voice cried through the startled air,
Excelsior!

"In happy homes he saw the light
Of household fires gleam warm and bright"

"Try not the Pass!" the old man
said;
"Dark lowers the tempest over-
head,
The roaring torrent is deep and wide!"
And loud that clarion voice replied,
Excelsior!

"Oh stay," the maiden said, "and
rest
Thy weary head upon this breast!"

A traveller, by the faithful hound,
Half-buried in the snow was found,
Still grasping in his hand of ice
That banner with the strange device,
Excelsior!

There in the twilight cold and gray,
Lifeless, but beautiful, he lay,
And from the sky, serene and far,
A voice fell, like a falling star,
Excelsior!

"The Slaver in the broad lagoon
Lay moored with idle sail"

POEMS ON SLAVERY

[The following poems, with one exception, were written at sea, in the latter part of October, 1842. I had not then heard of Dr. Channing's death. Since that event the poem addressed to him is no longer appropriate. I have decided, however, to let it remain as it was written, in testimony of my admiration for a great and good man.]

TO WILLIAM E. CHANNING

THE pages of thy book I read,
And as I closed each one,
My heart, responding, ever said,
"Servant of God! well done!"

Well done! Thy words are great and
bold;

At times they seem to me,
Like Luther's, in the days of old,
Half-battles for the free.

Go on, until this land revokes
The old and chartered Lie,
The feudal curse, whose whips and
yokes
Insult humanity.

A voice is ever at thy side
Speaking in tones of might,

Like the prophetic voice, that cried
To John in Patmos, "Write!"

Write! and tell out this bloody tale;
Record this dire eclipse,
This Day of Wrath, this Endless Wall,
This dread Apocalypse!

THE SLAVE'S DREAM

BESIDE the ungathered rice he lay,
His sickle in his hand;
His breast was bare, his matted hair
Was buried in the sand.
Again, in the mist and shadow of
sleep,
He saw his Native Land.

Wide through the landscape of his
dreams
The lordly Niger flowed;

Beneath the palm-trees on the plain
 Once more a king he strode ; 10
 And heard the tinkling caravans
 Descend the mountain road.

He saw once more his dark-eyed
 queen
 Among her children stand ;
 They clasped his neck, they kissed his
 cheeks,
 They held him by the hand ! —
 A tear burst from the sleeper's lids
 And fell into the sand.

And then at furious speed he rode
 Along the Niger's bank ; 20
 His bridle-reins were golden chains,
 And, with a martial clank,
 At each leap he could feel his scabbard
 of steel
 Smiting his stallion's flank.

Before him, like a blood-red flag,
 The bright flamingoes flew ;
 From morn till night he followed their
 flight,
 O'er plains where the tamarind
 grew,
 Till he saw the roofs of Caffre huts,
 And the ocean rose to view. 30

At night he heard the lion roar,
 And the hyena scream,
 And the river-horse, as he crushed the
 reeds
 Beside some hidden stream ;
 And it passed, like a glorious roll of
 drums,
 Through the triumph of his dream.

The forests, with their myriad
 tongues,
 Shouted of liberty ;
 And the Blast of the Desert cried
 aloud,
 With a voice so wild and free, 40
 That he started in his sleep and smiled
 At their tempestuous glee.

He did not feel the driver's whip,
 Nor the burning heat of day ;
 For Death had illumined the Land of
 Sleep,
 And his lifeless body lay
 A worn-out fetter, that the soul
 Had broken and thrown away !

THE GOOD PART

THAT SHALL NOT BE TAKEN AWAY
 SHE dwells by Great Kenhawa's side,
 In valleys green and cool ;
 And all her hope and all her pride
 Are in the village school.

Her soul, like the transparent air
 That robes the hills above,
 Though not of earth, encircles there
 All things with arms of love.

And thus she walks among her girls
 With praise and mild rebukes ;
 Subduing e'en rude village churls
 By her angelic looks.

She reads to them at eventide
 Of One who came to save ;
 To cast the captive's chains aside
 And liberate the slave.

And oft the blessed time foretells
 When all men shall be free ;
 And musical, as silver bells,
 Their falling chains shall be.

And following her beloved Lord,
 In decent poverty,
 She makes her life one sweet record
 And deed of charity.

For she was rich, and gave up all
 To break the iron bands
 Of those who waited in her hall,
 And labored in her lands.

Long since beyond the Southern Sea
 Their outbound sails have sped,
 While she, in meek humility,
 Now earns her daily bread.

It is their prayers, which never cease
 That clothe her with such grace ;
 Their blessing is the light of peace
 That shines upon her face.

THE SLAVE IN THE DISMAL SWAMP

IN dark fens of the Dismal Swamp
 The hunted Negro lay ;
 He saw the fire of the midnight camp
 And heard at times a horse's tramp
 And a bloodhound's distant bay.

Where will-o'-the-wisps and glow-
worms shine,
In bulrush and in brake;
Where waving mosses shroud the
pine,
And the cedar grows, and the poison-
ous vine
Is spotted like the snake;

Where hardly a human foot could
pass,
Or a human heart would dare,
On the quaking turf of the green
morass
He crouched in the rank and tangled
grass,
Like a wild beast in his lair.

A poor old slave, infirm and lame;
Great scars deformed his face;
On his forehead he bore the brand of
shame,
And the rags, that hid his mangled
frame,
Were the livery of disgrace.

All things above were bright and
fair,
All things were glad and free;
Lithe squirrels darted here and there,
And wild birds filled the echoing air
With songs of Liberty!

On him alone was the doom of pain,
From the morning of his birth;
On him alone the curse of Cain
Fell, like a flail on the garnered
grain,
And struck him to the earth!

THE SLAVE SINGING AT MID- NIGHT

LOUD he sang the psalm of David!
He, a Negro and enslaved,
Sang of Israel's victory,
Sang of Zion, bright and free.

In that hour, when night is calmest,
Sang he from the Hebrew Psalmist,
In a voice so sweet and clear
That I could not choose but hear,

Songs of triumph, and ascriptions,
Such as reached the swart Egyptians,

When upon the Red Sea coast
Perished Pharaoh and his host,

And the voice of his devotion
Filled my soul with strange emotion;
For its tones by turns were glad,
Sweetly solemn, wildly sad.

Paul and Silas, in their prison,
Sang of Christ, the Lord arisen.
And an earthquake's arm of might
Broke their dungeon-gates at night.

But, alas! what holy angel
Brings the Slave this glad evangel?
And what earthquake's arm of might
Breaks his dungeon-gates at night?

THE WITNESSES

IN Ocean's wide domains,
Half buried in the sands,
Lie skeletons in chains,
With shackled feet and hands.

Beyond the fall of dews,
Deeper than plummet lies,
Float ships, with all their crews,
No more to sink nor rise.

There the black Slave-ship swims,
Freighted with human forms,
Whose fettered, fleshless limbs
Are not the sport of storms.

These are the bones of Slaves;
They gleam from the abyss;
They cry, from yawning waves,
"We are the Witnesses!"

Within Earth's wide domains
Are markets for men's lives;
Their necks are galled with chains,
Their wrists are cramped with
gyves.

Dead bodies, that the kite
In deserts makes its prey;
Murders, that with affright
Scare school-boys from their play!

All evil thoughts and deeds;
Anger, and lust, and pride;
The foulest, rankest weeds,
That choke Life's groaning tide!

These are the woes of Slaves ;
 They glare from the abyss ;
 They cry, from unknown graves,
 " We are the Witnesses ! "

THE QUADROON GIRL

THE Slaver in the broad lagoon
 Lay moored with idle sail ;
 He waited for the rising moon,
 And for the evening gale.

Under the shore his boat was tied,
 And all her listless crew
 Watched the gray alligator slide
 Into the still bayou.

Odors of orange-flowers, and spice,
 Reached them from time to time, 10
 Like airs that breathe from Paradise
 Upon a world of crime.

The Planter, under his roof of thatch,
 Smoked thoughtfully and slow ;
 The Slaver's thumb was on the latch,
 He seemed in haste to go.

He said, " My ship at anchor rides
 In yonder broad lagoon ;
 I only wait the evening tides,
 And the rising of the moon." 20

Before them, with her face upraised,
 In timid attitude,
 Like one half curious, half amazed,
 A Quadroon maiden stood.

Her eyes were large, and full of light,
 Her arms and neck were bare ;
 No garment she wore save a kirtle
 bright,
 And her own long, raven hair.

And on her lips there played a smile
 As holy, meek, and faint, 30
 As lights in some cathedral aisle
 The features of a saint.

" The soil is barren, — the farm is
 old,"
 The thoughtful planter said ;
 Then looked upon the Slaver's gold,
 And then upon the maid.

His heart within him was at strife
 With such accursed gains :
 For he knew whose passions gave her
 life,
 Whose blood ran in her veins. 40

But the voice of nature was too weak ;
 He took the glittering gold !
 Then pale as death grew the maiden's
 cheek,
 Her hands as icy cold.

The Slaver led her from the door,
 He led her by the hand,
 To be his slave and paramour
 In a strange and distant land !

THE WARNING

BEWARE ! The Israelite of old, who
 tore

The lion in his path, — when, poor
 and blind,
 He saw the blessed light of heaven no
 more,

Shorn of his noble strength and
 forced to grind
 In prison, and at last led forth to be
 A pander to Philistine revelry, —

Upon the pillars of the temple laid
 His desperate hands, and in its over-
 throw
 Destroyed himself, and with him those
 who made
 A cruel mockery of his sightless
 woe ;

The poor, blind Slave, the scoff and
 jest of all,
 Expired, and thousands perished in
 the fall !

There is a poor, blind Samson in this
 land,
 Shorn of his strength and bound in
 bonds of steel,
 Who may, in some grim revel, raise
 his hand,
 And shake the pillars of this Com-
 monweal,
 Till the vast Temple of our liberties
 A shapeless mass of wreck and rub-
 bish lies.

The Count of Lara and Don Carlos

THE SPANISH STUDENT

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

VICTORIAN	{	. . . . .	Students of Alcalá.
HYPOLITO			
THE COUNT OF LARA	{	. . . . .	Gentlemen of Madrid.
DON CARLOS			
THE ARCHBISHOP OF TOLEDO.			
A CARDINAL.			
BELTRAN CRUZADO		. . . . .	Count of the Gypsies.
BARTOLOMÉ ROMÁN		. . . . .	A young Gypsy.
THE PADRE CURA OF GUADARRAMA.			
PEDRO CRESPO		. . . . .	Alcalde.
PANCHO		. . . . .	Alguacil
FRANCISCO		. . . . .	Lara's Servant.
CHISPA		. . . . .	Victorian's Servant.
BALTASAR		. . . . .	Innkeeper.
PRECIOSA		. . . . .	A Gypsy Girl.
ANGELICA		. . . . .	A poor Girl.
MARTINA		. . . . .	The Padre Cura's Niece.
DOLORES		. . . . .	Preciosa's Maid.
			<i>Gypsies, Muncians, etc.</i>

ACT I

SCENE I. — *The COUNT OF LARA'S chambers. Night. The COUNT in his dressing-gown, smoking and conversing with DON CARLOS.*

Lara. You were not at the play to-night, Don Carlos;
How happened it?
Don C. I had engagements elsewhere.
Pray who was there?

Lara. Why, all the town and court.
The house was crowded; and the
 busy fans
Among the gayly dressed and per-
 fumed ladies
Fluttered like butterflies among the
 flowers.
There was the Countess of Medina
 Celi;
The Goblin Lady with her Phantom
 Lover,
Her Lindo Don Diego; Doña Sol,
And Doña Serafina, and her cousins.¹⁰

Don C. What was the play?

Lara. It was a dull affair;
One of those comedies in which you
 see,
As Lope says, the history of the world
Brought down from Genesis to the
 day of Judgment.
There were three duels fought in the
 first act,
Three gentlemen receiving deadly
 wounds,
Laying their hands upon their hearts,
 and saying,
"Oh, I am dead!" a lover in a closet,
An old hidalgo, and a gay Don Juan,
A Doña Inez with a black mantilla,²⁰
Followed at twilight by an unknown
 lover,
Who looks intently where he knows
 she is not!

Don C. Of course, the Preciosa
 danced to-night?

Lara. And never better. Every
 footstep fell
As lightly as a sunbeam on the water.
I think the girl extremely beautiful.

Don C. Almost beyond the privi-
 lege of woman!
I saw her in the Prado yesterday.
Her step was royal, — queen-like, —
 and her face

As beautiful as a saint's in Paradise.³⁰

Lara. May not a saint fall from her
 Paradise,
And be no more a saint?

Don C. Why do you ask?

Lara. Because I have heard it said
 this angel fell,
And though she is a virgin outwardly,
Within she is a sinner; like those
 panels
Of doors and altar-pieces the old
 monks

Painted in convents, with the Virgin
 Mary
On the outside, and on the inside
 Venus!

Don C. You do her wrong; indeed,
 you do her wrong!
She is as virtuous as she is fair.⁴⁰

Lara. How credulous you are!
 Why, look you, friend,
There's not a virtuous woman in Ma-
 drid,
In this whole city! And would you
 persuade me
That a mere dancing-girl, who shows
 herself,
Nightly, half naked, on the stage, for
 money,
And with voluptuous motions fires
 the blood
Of inconsiderate youth, is to be held
A model for her virtue?

Don C. You forget
She is a Gypsy girl.

Lara. And therefore won
The easier.

Don C. Nay, not to be won at
 all!⁵⁰
The only virtue that a Gypsy prizes
Is chastity. That is her only virtue.
Dearer than life she holds it. I re-
 member

A Gypsy woman, a vile, shameless
 bawd,
Whose craft was to betray the young
 and fair;
And yet this woman was above all
 bribes.
And when a noble lord, touched by
 her beauty,
The wild and wizard beauty of her
 race,
Offered her gold to be what she made
 others,
She turned upon him, with a look of
 scorn,⁶⁰
And smote him in the face!

Lara. And does that prove
That Preciosa is above suspicion?

Don C. It proves a nobleman may
 be repulsed
When he thinks conquest easy. I be-
 lieve
That woman, in her deepest degrada-
 tion,
Holds something sacred, something
 undefiled,

Some pledge and keepsake of her
higher nature,
And, like the diamond in the dark, re-
tains
Some quenchless gleam of the celestial
light!

Lara. Yet Preciosa would have
taken the gold. 70

Don C. (rising). I do not think so.

Lara. I am sure of it.
But why this haste? Stay yet a little
longer,

And fight the battles of your Dulcinea.

Don C. 'Tis late. I must begone,
for if I stay

You will not be persuaded.

Lara. Yes; persuade me.

Don C. No one so deaf as he who
will not hear!

Lara. No one so blind as he who
will not see!

Don C. And so good-night. I wish
you pleasant dreams,
And greater faith in woman. [*Exit.*

Lara. Greater faith!
I have the greatest faith; for I be-
lieve 80

Victorian is her lover. I believe
That I shall be to-morrow; and there-
after

Another, and another, and another,
Chasing each other through her zo-
diac,

As Taurus chases Aries.

(*Enter FRANCISCO with a casket.*)

Well, Francisco,
What speed with Preciosa?

Fran. None, my lord.
She sends your jewels back, and bids
me tell you

She is not to be purchased by your
gold.

Lara. Then I will try some other
way to win her. 89

Pray, dost thou know Victorian?

Fran. Yes, my lord;
I saw him at the jeweller's to-day.

Lara. What was he doing there?

Fran. I saw him buy
A golden ring, that had a ruby in
it.

Lara. Was there another like it?

Fran. One so like it
I could not choose between them.

Lara. It is well.

To-morrow morning bring that ring to
me.

Do not forget. Now light me to my
bed. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II. — *A street in Madrid.*

*Enter CHISPA, followed by musicians,
with a bagpipe, guitarra, and other
instruments.*

Chispa. Abernuncio Satanas! and
a plague on all lovers who ramble
about at night drinking the elements,
instead of sleeping quietly in their
beds. Every dead man to his ceme-
tery, say I; and every friar to his
monastery. Now, here's my master,
Victorian, yesterday a cow-keeper,
and to-day a gentleman; yesterday a
student, and to-day a lover; and I
must be up later than the nightingale,
for as the abbot sings so must the
sacristan respond. God grant he
may soon be married, for then shall
all this serenading cease. Ay, marry!
marry! marry! Mother, what does
marry mean? It means to spin, to
bear children, and to weep, my daugh-
ter! And, of a truth, there is some-
thing more in matrimony than the
wedding-ring. (*To the musicians.*)
And now, gentlemen, Pax vobiscum!
as the ass said to the cabbages. Pray,
walk this way; and don't hang down
your heads. It is no disgrace to have
an old father and a ragged shirt.
Now, look you, you are gentlemen
who lead the life of crickets; you en-
joy hunger by day and noise by night.
Yet, I beseech you, for this once be
not loud, but pathetic; for it is a ser-
enade to a damsel in bed, and not to
the Man in the Moon. Your object is
not to arouse and terrify, but to soothe
and bring lulling dreams. Therefore,
each shall not play upon his instru-
ment as if it were the only one in the
universe, but gently, and with a cer-
tain modesty, according with the
others. Pray, how may I call thy
name, friend?

First Mus. Gerónimo Gil, at your
service.

Chispa. Every tub smells of the
wine that is in it. Pray, Gerónimo, is
not Saturday an unpleasant day with
thee?

First Mus. Why so ?

Chispa. Because I have heard it said that Saturday is an unpleasant day with those who have but one shirt. Moreover, I have seen thee at the tavern, and if thou canst run as fast as thou canst drink, I should like to hunt hares with thee. What instrument is that ?

First Mus. An Aragonese bagpipe.

Chispa. Pray, art thou related to the bagpiper of Bujalance, who asked a maravedi for playing, and ten for leaving off ?

First Mus. No, your honor.

Chispa. I am glad of it. What other instruments have we ?

Second and Third Musicians. We play the bandurria.

Chispa. A pleasing instrument. And thou ?

Fourth Mus. The fife.

Chispa. I like it ; it has a cheerful, soul-stirring sound, that soars up to my lady's window like the song of a swallow. And you others ?

Other Mus. We are the singers, please your honor.

Chispa. You are too many. Do you think we are going to sing mass in the cathedral of Córdoba ? Four men can make but little use of one shoe, and I see not how you can all sing in one song. But follow me along the garden wall. That is the way my master climbs to the lady's window. It is by the Vicar's skirts that the Devil climbs into the belfry. Come, follow me, and make no noise.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. — PRECIOSA'S chamber.
She stands at the open window.

Prec. How slowly through the lilac-scented air
Descends the tranquil moon! Like
thistledown
The vapory clouds float in the peaceful sky ;
And sweetly from yon hollow vaults
of shade
The nightingales breathe out their
souls in song.
And hark ! what songs of love, what
soul-like sounds,
Answer them from below !

SERENADE

Stars of the summer night!
Far in yon azure deeps,
Hide, hide your golden light! sc
She sleeps!
My lady sleeps!
Sleeps!

Moon of the summer night!
Far down yon western steep,
Sink, sink in silver light!
She sleeps!
My lady sleeps!
Sleeps!

Wind of the summer night! 2c
Where yonder woodbine creeps,
Fold, fold thy pinions light!
She sleeps!
My lady sleeps!
Sleeps!

Dreams of the summer night!
Tell her, her lover keeps
Watch! while in slumbers light
She sleeps!
My lady sleeps! 3c
Sleeps!

(*Enter VICTORIAN by the balcony.*)

Vict. Poor little dove ! Thou tremblest like a leaf !

Prec. I am so frightened ! 'Tis for thee I tremble !

I hate to have thee climb that wall by night !

Did no one see thee ?

Vict. None, my love, but thou.

Prec. 'Tis very dangerous ; and when thou art gone
I chide myself for letting thee come here

Thus stealthily by night. Where hast thou been ?

Since yesterday I have no news from thee.

Vict. Since yesterday I have been in Alcalá. 4c

Ere long the time will come, sweet Preciosa,

When that dull distance shall no more divide us ;

And I no more shall scale thy wall by night

To steal a kiss from thee, as I do now.

Prec. An honest thief, to steal but what thou givest.

Vict. And we shall sit together unmolested,

And words of true love pass from
tongue to tongue,
As singing birds from one bough to
another.

Prec. That were a life to make time
envious!

I knew that thou wouldst come to me
to-night. 50

I saw thee at the play.

Vict. Sweet child of air!
Never did I behold thee so attired
And garmented in beauty as to-night!
What hast thou done to make thee
look so fair?

Prec. Am I not always fair?

Vict. Ay, and so fair
That I am jealous of all eyes that see
thee,
And wish that they were blind.

Prec. I heed them not;
When thou art present, I see none but
thee!

Vict. There's nothing fair nor beau-
tiful, but takes
Something from thee, that makes it
beautiful. 60

Prec. And yet thou leavest me for
those dusty books.

Vict. Thou comest between me and
those books too often!
I see thy face in everything I see!
The paintings in the chapel wear thy
looks,
The canticles are changed to sarabands,
And with the learned doctors of the
schools
I see thee dance cachuchas.

Prec. In good sooth,
I dance with learned doctors of the
schools

To-morrow morning.

Vict. And with whom, I pray?

Prec. A grave and Reverend Cardi-
nal, and his Grace 70
The Archbishop of Toledo.

Vict. What mad jest
is this?

Prec. It is no jest; indeed it is
not.

Vict. Prithee, explain thyself.

Prec. Why, simply thus.
Thou knowest the Pope has sent here
into Spain

To put a stop to dances on the stage.

Vict. I have heard it whispered.

Prec. Now the Cardinal,

Who for this purpose comes, would
fain behold

With his own eyes these dances; and
the Archbishop

Has sent for me —

Vict. That thou mayest dance be-
fore them! 79

Now viva la cachucha! It will breathe
The fire of youth into these gray old
men!

'T will be thy proudest conquest!

Prec. Saving one.
And yet I fear these dances will be
stopped,

And Preciosa be once more a beggar.

Vict. The sweetest beggar that e'er
asked for alms;
With such beseeching eyes, that when
I saw thee

I gave my heart away!

Prec. Dost thou remember
When first we met?

Vict. It was at Córdoba,
In the cathedral garden. Thou wast
sitting

Under the orange trees, beside a foun-
tain. 90

Prec. 'T was Easter Sunday. The
full-blossomed trees
Filled all the air with fragrance and
with joy.

The priests were singing, and the or-
gan sounded,

And then anon the great cathedral
bell.

It was the elevation of the Host.

We both of us fell down upon our
knees,

Under the orange boughs, and prayed
together.

I never had been happy till that mo-
ment.

Vict. Thou blessed angel!

Prec. And when thou wast gone
I felt an aching here. I did not speak
To any one that day. But from that
day 101

Bartolomé grew hateful unto me.

Vict. Remember him no more. Let
not his shadow

Come between thee and me. Sweet
Preciosa!

I loved thee even then, though I was
silent!

Prec. I thought I ne'er should see
thy face again.

Thy farewell had a sound of sorrow in it.

Vict. That was the first sound in the song of love!
Scarce more than silence is, and yet a sound.

Hands of invisible spirits touch the strings

Of that mysterious instrument, the soul,

And play the prelude of our fate. We hear

The voice prophetic, and are not alone.

Prec. That is my faith. Dost thou believe these warnings?

Vict. So far as this. Our feelings and our thoughts
Tend ever on, and rest not in the Present.

As drops of rain fall into some dark well,

And from below comes a scarce audible sound,

So fall our thoughts into the dark Hereafter,

And their mysterious echo reaches us.

Prec. I have felt it so, but found no words to say it!

I cannot reason; I can only feel!

But thou hast language for all thoughts and feelings.

Thou art a scholar; and sometimes I think

We cannot walk together in this world!

The distance that divides us is too great!

Henceforth thy pathway lies among the stars;

I must not hold thee back.

Vict. Thou little sceptic!
Dost thou still doubt? What I most prize in woman

Is her affections, not her intellect!

The intellect is finite; but the affec-

tions
Are infinite, and cannot be exhausted.
Compare me with the great men of the earth;

What am I? Why, a pygmy among giants!

But if thou lovest, — mark me! I say lovest, —

The greatest of thy sex excels thee not!

The world of the affections is thy world,

Not that of man's ambition. In that stillness

Which most becomes a woman, calm and holy,

Thou sittest by the fireside of the heart,

Feeding its flame. The element of fire

Is pure. It cannot change nor hide its nature,

But burns as brightly in a Gypsy camp As in a palace hall. Art thou convinced?

Prec. Yes, that I love thee, as the good love heaven;

But not that I am worthy of that heaven.

How shall I more deserve it?

Vict. Loving more.

Prec. I cannot love thee more; my heart is full.

Vict. Then let it overflow, and I will drink it,

As in the summer-time the thirsty sands

Drink the swift waters of the Marzanas,

And still do thirst for more.

A Watchman (in the street). Ave Maria

Purissima! 'Tis midnight and serene!

Vict. Hear'st thou that cry?

Prec. It is a hateful sound,
To scare thee from me!

Vict. As the hunter's horn
Doth scare the timid stag, or bark of hounds

The moor-fowl from his mate.

Prec. Pray, do not go!

Vict. I must away to Alcalá to-night.

Think of me when I am away.

Prec. Fear not!
I have no thoughts that do not think

of thee.

Vict. (giving her a ring). And to remind thee of my love, take this;

A serpent, emblem of Eternity;

A ruby, — say, a drop of my heart's blood.

Prec. It is an ancient saying, that the ruby

Brings gladness to the wearer, and preserves

The heart pure, and, if laid beneath
the pillow,
Drives away evil dreams. But then,
alas!

It was a serpent tempted Eve to sin.

Vict. What convent of barefooted
Carmelites

Taught thee so much theology?

Prec. (*laying her hand upon his
mouth*). Hush! hush!

Good night! and may all holy angels
guard thee! 171

Vict. Good night! good night!
Thou art my guardian angel!
I have no other saint than thou to
pray to!

(*He descends by the balcony.*)

Prec. Take care, and do not hurt
thee. Art thou safe?

Vict. (*from the garden*). Safe as my
love for thee! But art thou safe?
Others can climb a balcony by moon-
light

As well as I. Pray shut thy window
close;

I am jealous of the perfumed air of
night

That from this garden climbs to kiss
thy lips.

Prec. (*throwing down her handker-
chief*). Thou silly child! Take
this to blind thine eyes. 180

It is my benison!

Vict. And brings to me
Sweet fragrance from thy lips, as the
soft wind

Wafts to the out-bound mariner the
breath

Of the beloved land he leaves behind.

Prec. Make not thy voyage long.

Vict. To-morrow night
Shall see me safe returned. Thou art
the star

To guide me to an anchorage. Good
night!

My beauteous star! My star of love,
good night!

Prec. Good night!

Watchman (*at a distance*). Ave
Maria Purissima!

SCENE IV. — *An inn on the road to
Alcalá. BALTASAR asleep on a bench.
Enter CHISPA.*

Chispa. And here we are, half-way
to Alcalá, between cocks and mid-

night. Body o' me! what an inn this
is! The lights out, and the landlord
asleep. *Holá! ancient Baltasar!*

Bal. (*waking*). Here I am.

Chispa. Yes, there you are, like a
one-eyed Alcalde in a town without
inhabitants. Bring a light, and let me
have supper.

Bal. Where is your master?

Chispa. Do not trouble yourself
about him. We have stopped a mo-
ment to breathe our horses; and if he
chooses to walk up and down in the
open air, looking into the sky as one
who hears it rain, that does not satisfy
my hunger, you know. But be quick,
for I am in a hurry, and every man
stretches his legs according to the
length of his coverlet. What have
we here?

Bal. (*setting a light on the table*).
Stewed rabbit.

Chispa (*eating*). Conscience of
Portalegre! Stewed kitten, you
mean!

Bal. And a pitcher of Pedro
Ximenes, with a roasted pear in it.

Chispa (*drinking*). Ancient Balta-
sar, amigo! You know how to cry
wine and sell vinegar. I tell you this
is nothing but Vinto Tinto of La
Mancha, with a tang of the swine-
skin.

Bal. I swear to you by Saint Simon
and Judas, it is all as I say.

Chispa. And I swear to you by
Saint Peter and Saint Paul, that it is
no such thing. Moreover, your sup-
per is like the hidalgo's dinner, very
little meat and a great deal of table-
cloth.

Bal. Ha! ha! ha!

Chispa. And more noise than nuts.

Bal. Ha! ha! ha! You must have
your joke, Master Chispa. But shall
I not ask Don Victorian in, to take a
draught of the Pedro Ximenes?

Chispa. No; you might as well say,
"Don't-you-want-some?" to a dead
man.

Bal. Why does he go so often to
Madrid?

Chispa. For the same reason that he
eats no supper. He is in love. Were
you ever in love, Baltasar?

Bal. I was never out of it, good

Chispa. It has been the torment of my life.

Chispa. What! are you on fire, too, old haystack? Why, we shall never be able to put you out.

Vict. (*without*). Chispa!

Chispa. Go to bed, Pero Grullo, for the cocks are crowing.

Vict. Ea! Chispa! Chispa!

Chispa. Ea! Señor. Come with me, ancient Baltasar, and bring water for the horses. I will pay for the supper to-morrow. [*Exeunt*.

SCENE V. — VICTORIAN'S chambers at Alcalá. HYPOLITO asleep in an arm-chair. He awakes slowly.

Hyp. I must have been asleep! ay, sound asleep!
And it was all a dream. O sleep, sweet sleep!
Whatever form thou takest, thou art fair,
Holding unto our lips thy goblet filled
Out of Oblivion's well, a healing draught!
The candles have burned low; it must be late.
Where can Victorian be? Like Fray Carrillo,
The only place in which one cannot find him
Is his own cell. Here's his guitar, that seldom
Feels the caresses of its master's hand.
Open thy silent lips, sweet instrument!
And make dull midnight merry with a song.

(*He plays and sings.*)

Padre Francisco!

Padre Francisco!

What do you want of Padre Francisco?

Here is a pretty young maiden

Who wants to confess her sins!

Open the door and let her come in,
I will shrive her of every sin.

(*Enter VICTORIAN.*)

Vict. Padre Hypolito! Padre Hypolito!

Hyp. What do you want of Padre Hypolito?

Vict. Come, shrive me straight; for, if love be a sin,

I am the greatest sinner that doth live.

I will confess the sweetest of all crimes,

A maiden wooed and won.

Hyp. The same old tale
Of the old woman in the chimney-corner,

Who, while the pot boils, says, "Come here, my child;

I'll tell thee a story of my wedding-day."

Vict. Nay, listen, for my heart is full; so full

That I must speak.

Hyp. Alas! that heart of thine
Is like a scene in the old play; the curtain

Rises to solemn music, and lo! enter
The eleven thousand virgins of Cologne!

Vict. Nay, like the Sibyl's volumes,
thou shouldst say;

Those that remained, after the six were burned,

Being held more precious than the nine together.

But listen to my tale. Dost thou remember

The Gypsy girl we saw at Córdoba
Dance the Romalis in the marketplace?

Hyp. Thou meanest Preciosa.

Vict. Ay, the same.
Thou knowest how her image haunted me

Long after we returned to Alcalá.

She's in Madrid.

Hyp. I know it.

Vict. And I'm in love.

Hyp. And therefore in Madrid when thou shouldst be

In Alcalá.

Vict. Oh pardon me, my friend,
If I so long have kept this secret from thee;

But silence is the charm that guards such treasures,

And, if a word be spoken ere the time,

They sink again, they were not meant for us.

Hyp. Alas! alas! I see thou art in love.

Love keeps the cold out better than a cloak.

It serves for food and raiment. Give
a Spaniard

His mass, his olla, and his Doña
Luisa—

Thou knowest the proverb. But pray
tell me, lover,

How speeds thy wooing? Is the
maiden coy?

Write her a song, beginning with an
Ave;

Sing as the monk sang to the Virgin
Mary,

*Ave ! cujus calcem clare
Nec centenni commendare
Sciret Seraph studio !*

60

Vict. Pray, do not jest! This is no
time for it!

I am in earnest!

Hyp. Seriously enamored?
What, ho! The Primus of great
Alcalá

Enamored of a Gypsy? Tell me
frankly,

How meanest thou?

Vict. I mean it honestly.

Hyp. Surely thou wilt not marry
her!

Vict. Why not?

Hyp. She was betrothed to one Bar-
tolomé,

If I remember rightly, a young Gypsy
Who danced with her at Córdoba.

Vict. They quarrelled,
And so the matter ended.

Hyp. But in truth 70
Thou wilt not marry her.

Vict. In truth I will.
The angels sang in heaven when she
was born!

She is a precious jewel I have found
Among the filth and rubbish of the
world.

I'll stoop for it; but when I wear it
here,

Set on my forehead like the morning
star,

The world may wonder, but it will not
laugh.

Hyp. If thou wear'st nothing else
upon thy forehead,

'T will be indeed a wonder.

Vict. Out upon thee
With thy unseasonable jests! Pray
tell me, 80

Is there no virtue in the world?

Hyp. Not much.

What, think'st thou, is she doing at
this moment;

Now, while we speak of her?

Vict. She lies asleep,
And from her parted lips her gentle
breath

Comes like the fragrance from the lips
of flowers.

Her tender limbs are still, and on her
breast

The cross she prayed to, ere she fell
asleep.

Rises and falls with the soft tide of
dreams,

Like a light barge safe moored.

Hyp. Which means, in prose,
She's sleeping with her mouth a little
open! 90

Vict. Oh, would I had the old magi-
cian's glass

To see her as she lies in child-like
sleep!

Hyp. And wouldst thou venture?

Vict. Ay, indeed I would!

Hyp. Thou art courageous. Hast
thou e'er reflected

How much lies hidden in that one
word, *now*?

Vict. Yes; all the awful mystery
of Life!

I oft have thought, my dear Hypolito,
That could we, by some spell of magic,
change

The world and its inhabitants to stone,
In the same attitudes they now are
in, 100

What fearful glances downward might
we cast

Into the hollow chasms of human life!

What groups should we behold about
the death-bed,

Putting to shame the group of Niobe!

What joyful welcomes, and what sad
farewells!

What stony tears in those congealèd
eyes!

What visible joy or anguish in those
cheeks!

What bridal pomps, and what fune-
real shows!

What foes, like gladiators, fierce and
struggling!

What lovers with their marble lips to-
gether! 110

Hyp. Ay, there it is! and, if I were
in love,

That is the very point I most should
dread.

This magic glass, these magic spells
of thine,

Might tell a tale were better left un-
told.

For instance, they might show us thy
fair cousin,

The Lady Violante, bathed in tears
Of love and anger, like the maid of
Colchis,

Whom thou, another faithless Argo-
naut,

Having won that golden fleece, a wo-
man's love,

Desertest for this Glauce.

Vict. Hold thy peace! ¹²⁰

She cares not for me. She may wed
another,

Or go into a convent, and, thus dying,
Marry Achilles in the Elysian Fields.

Hyp. (rising). And so, good night!
Good-morning, I should say.

(Clock strikes three.)

Hark! how the loud and ponderous
mace of Time

Knocks at the golden portals of the
day!

And so, once more, good night! We'll
speak more largely

Of Preciosa when we meet again.

Get thee to bed, and the magician,
Sleep,

Shall show her to thee, in his magic
glass, ¹³⁰

In all her loveliness. Good night!

[Exit.

Vict. Good night!

But not to bed; for I must read awhile.

*(Throws himself into the arm-chair
which HYPOLITO has left, and lays a
large book open upon his knees.)*

Must read, or sit in revery and watch
The changing color of the waves that
break

Upon the idle sea-shore of the mind!

Visions of Fame! that once did visit
me,

Making night glorious with your
smile, where are ye?

Oh, who shall give me, now that ye
are gone,

Juices of those immortal plants that
bloom

Upon Olympus, making us immortal?
Or teach me where that wondrous
mandrake grows ¹⁴¹

Whose magic root, torn from the
earth with groans,

At midnight hour, can scare the fiends
away,

And make the mind prolific in its fan-
cies?

I have the wish, but want the will, to
act!

Souls of great men departed! Ye
whose words

Have come to light from the swift
river of Time,

Like Roman swords found in the Ta-
gus' bed,

Where is the strength to wield the
arms ye bore?

From the barred visor of Antiquity
Reflected shines the eternal light of

Truth, ¹⁵¹

As from a mirror! All the means of
action—

The shapeless masses, the materials—
Lie everywhere about us. What we
need

Is the celestial fire to change the flint
Into transparent crystal, bright and
clear.

That fire is genius! The rude peasant
sits

At evening in his smoky cot, and
draws

With charcoal uncouth figures on the
wall.

The son of genius comes, foot-sore
with travel, ¹⁶⁰

And begs a shelter from the inclement
night.

He takes the charcoal from the pea-
sant's hand,

And, by the magic of his touch at
once

Transfigured, all its hidden virtues
shine,

And, in the eyes of the astonished
clown,

It gleams a diamond! Even thus
transformed,

Rude popular traditions and old tales
Shine as immortal poems, at the touch

Of some poor, houseless, homeless,
wandering bard,

Who had but a night's lodging for his
pains. ¹⁷⁰

But there are brighter dreams than
those of Fame,
Which are the dreams of Love! Out
of the heart
Rises the bright ideal of these dreams,
As from some woodland fount a spirit
Rises
And sinks again into its silent deeps,

Have found the bright ideal of my
dreams.
Yes! she is ever with me. I can feel,
Here, as I sit at midnight and alone,
Her gentle breathing! on my breast
can feel
The pressure of her head! God's ben-
ison

"Must read, or sit in reverie"

Ere the enamored knight can touch
her robe!
'Tis this ideal that the soul of man,
Like the enamored knight beside the
fountain,
Waits for upon the margin of Life's
stream;
Waits to behold her rise from the dark
waters,
Clad in a mortal shape! Alas! how
many
Must wait in vain! The stream flows
evermore,
But from its silent deeps no spirit
rises!
Yet I, born under a propitious star,

Rest ever on it! Close those beau-
teous eyes,
Sweet Sleep! and all the flowers that
bloom at night
With balmy lips breathe in her ears
my name!
(*Gradually sinks asleep.*)

ACT II

SCENE I. — PRECIOSA's chamber.
Morning. PRECIOSA and ANGELICA.
Prec. Why will you go so soon?
Stay yet awhile.
The poor too often turn away un-
heard

From hearts that shut against them
with a sound
That will be heard in heaven. Pray,
tell me more
Of your adversities. Keep nothing
from me.

What is your landlord's name ?

Ang. The Count of Lara.

Prec. The Count of Lara? Oh,
beware that man!

Mistrust his pity, — hold no parley
with him!

And rather die an outcast in the streets
Than touch his gold.

Ang. You know him, then!

Prec. As much ¹⁰
As any woman may, and yet be pure.
As you would keep your name with-
out a blemish,

Beware of him!

Ang. Alas! what can I do?
I cannot choose my friends. Each
word of kindness,
Come whence it may, is welcome to
the poor.

Prec. Make me your friend. A girl
so young and fair
Should have no friends but those of
her own sex.

What is your name?

Ang. Angelica.

Prec. That name
Was given you, that you might be an
angel

To her who bore you! When your
infant smile ²⁰

Made her home Paradise, you were her
angel.

Oh, be an angel still! She needs that
smile.

So long as you are innocent, fear no-
thing.

No one can harm you! I am a poor
girl,

Whom chance has taken from the
public streets.

I have no other shield than mine own
virtue.

That is the charm which has protected
me!

Amid a thousand perils, I have worn
it

Here on my heart! It is my guardian
angel.

Ang. (rising). I thank you for this
counsel, dearest lady. ³⁰

Prec. Thank me by following it.

Ang. Indeed I will.

Prec. Pray, do not go. I have
much more to say.

Ang. My mother is alone. I dare
not leave her.

Prec. Some other time, then, when
we meet again.

You must not go away with words
alone.

(Gives her a purse.)

Take this. Would it were more.

Ang. I thank you, lady.

Prec. No thanks. To-morrow come
to me again.

I dance to-night, — perhaps for the
last time.

But what I gain, I promise shall be
yours,

If that can save you from the Count
of Lara. ⁴⁰

Ang. Oh, my dear lady! how shall
I be grateful

For so much kindness?

Prec. I deserve no thanks.
Thank Heaven, not me.

Ang. Both Heaven and you.

Prec. Farewell.
Remember that you come again to-
morrow.

Ang. I will. And may the Blessed
Virgin guard you,
And all good angels. *[Exit.]*

Prec. May they guard thee too,
And all the poor; for they have need
of angels.

Now bring me, dear Dolores, my bas-
quiña,

My richest maja dress, — my dancing
dress,

And my most precious jewels! Make
me look ⁵⁰

Fairer than night e'er saw me! I've
a prize

To win this day, worthy of Preciosa!
(Enter BELTRAN CRUZADO.)

Cruz. Ave Maria!

Prec. O God! my evil genius!
What seekest thou here to-day?

Cruz. Thyself, — my child.

Prec. What is thy will with me?

Cruz. Gold! gold!

Prec. I gave thee yesterday; I have
no more.

Cruz. The gold of the Busné, —
give me his gold!

Prec. I gave the last in charity to-day.

Cruz. That is a foolish lie.

Prec. It is the truth.

Cruz. Curses upon thee! Thou art not my child! 60

Hast thou given gold away, and not to me?

Not to thy father? To whom, then?

Prec. To one

Who needs it more.

Cruz. No one can need it more.

Prec. Thou art not poor.

Cruz. What, I, who lurk about in dismal suburbs and unwholesome lanes;

I, who am housed worse than the galley slave;

I, who am fed worse than the kennelled hound;

I, who am clothed in rags, — Beltran Cruzado, —

Not poor!

Prec. Thou hast a stout heart and strong hands.

Thou canst supply thy wants; what wouldst thou more? 70

Cruz. The gold of the Busnè! give me his gold!

Prec. Beltran Cruzado! hear me once for all.

I speak the truth. So long as I had gold,

I gave it to thee freely, at all times, Never denied thee; never had a wish But to fulfil thine own. Now go in peace!

Be merciful, be patient, and ere long Thou shalt have more.

Cruz. And if I have it not, Thou shalt no longer dwell here in rich chambers, 80

Wear silken dresses, feed on dainty food,

And live in idleness; but go with me,

Dance the Romalis in the public streets,

And wander wild again o'er field and fell;

For here we stay not long.

Prec. What! march again?

Cruz. Ay, with all speed. I hate the crowded town!

I cannot breathe shut up within its gates!

Air, — I want air, and sunshine, and blue sky,

The feeling of the breeze upon my face,

The feeling of the turf beneath my feet,

And no walls but the far-off mountain-tops. 90

Then I am free and strong, — once more myself,

Beltran Cruzado, Count of the Calés!

Prec. God speed thee on thy march!

— I cannot go.

Cruz. Remember who I am, and who thou art!

Be silent and obey! Yet one thing more.

Bartolomé Román —

Prec. (with emotion). Oh, I beseech thee!

If my obedience and blameless life, If my humility and meek submission In all things hitherto, can move in thee

One feeling of compassion; if thou art 100

Indeed my father, and canst trace in me

One look of her who bore me, or one tone

That doth remind thee of her, let it plead

In my behalf, who am a feeble girl, Too feeble to resist, and do not force me

To wed that man! I am afraid of him!

I do not love him! On my knees I beg thee

To use no violence, nor do in haste

What cannot be undone!

Cruz. O child, child, child! Thou hast betrayed thy secret, as a bird 110

Betrays her nest, by striving to conceal it.

I will not leave thee here in the great city

To be a grandee's mistress. Make thee ready

To go with us; and until then remember

A watchful eye is on thee. [*Exit.*

Prec.

Woe is me!

I have a strange misgiving in my heart!

But that one deed of charity I'll do,
 Befall what may; they cannot take
 that from me.

SCENE II. — *A room in the ARCH-
 BISHOP'S Palace. The ARCHBISHOP
 and a CARDINAL seated.*

Arch. Knowing how near it touched
 the public morals,
 And that our age is grown corrupt
 and rotten
 By such excesses, we have sent to
 Rome,
 Beseeching that his Holiness would
 aid
 In curing the gross surfeit of the
 time,
 By seasonable stop put here in Spain
 To bull-fights and lewd dances on the
 stage.
 All this you know.

Card. Know and approve.

Arch. And further,
 That, by a mandate from his Holiness,
 The first have been suppressed.

Card. I trust forever. 10
 It was a cruel sport.

Arch. A barbarous pastime,
 Disgraceful to the land that calls it-
 self

Most Catholic and Christian.

Card. Yet the people
 Murmur at this; and, if the public
 dances

Should be condemned upon too slight
 occasion,
 Worse ills might follow than the ills
 we cure.

As *Panem et Circenses* was the cry
 Among the Roman populace of old,
 So *Pan y Toros* is the cry in Spain.
 Hence I would act advisedly herein; 20
 And therefore have induced your
 Grace to see

These national dances, ere we interdict
 them.

(*Enter a Servant.*)

Serv. The dancing-girl, and with
 her the musicians
 Your Grace was pleased to order, wait
 without.

Arch. Bid them come in. Now
 shall your eyes behold
 In what angelic, yet voluptuous shape
 The Devil came to tempt Saint An-
 thony.

(*Enter PRECIOSA, with a mantle
 thrown over her head. She advances
 slowly, in modest, half-timid atti-
 tude.*)

Card. (aside). Oh, what a fair and
 ministering angel
 Was lost to heaven when this sweet
 woman fell!

*Prec. (kneeling before the ARCH-
 BISHOP).* I have obeyed the or-
 der of your Grace. 30

If I intrude upon your better hours,
 I proffer this excuse, and here beseech
 Your holy benediction.

Arch. May God bless thee,
 And lead thee to a better life. Arise.

Card. (aside). Her acts are modest,
 and her words discreet!
 I did not look for this! Come hither,
 child.

Is thy name Preciosa?

Prec. Thus I am called.

Card. That is a Gypsy name. Who
 is thy father?

Prec. Beltran Cruzado, Count of
 the Cales.

Arch. I have a dim remembrance
 of that man; 40
 He was a bold and reckless character,
 A sun-burnt Ishmael!

Card. Dost thou remember
 Thy earlier days?

Prec. Yes; by the Darro's side
 My childhood passed. I can remem-
 ber still

The river, and the mountains capped
 with snow;

The villages, where, yet a little child,
 I told the traveller's fortune in the
 street;

The smuggler's horse, the brigand and
 the shepherd;

The march across the moor; the halt
 at noon;

The red fire of the evening camp, that
 lighted 50

The forest where we slept; and, fur-
 ther back,

As in a dream or in some former life,
 Gardens and palace walls.

Arch. 'T is the Alhambra,
 Under whose towers the Gypsy camp
 was pitched.

But the time wears; and we would
 see thee dance.

Prec. Your Grace shall be obeyed.

(*She lays aside her mantilla. The music of the cachucha is played, and the dance begins. The ARCHBISHOP and the CARDINAL look on with gravity and an occasional frown; then make signs to each other; and, as the dance continues, become more and more pleased and excited; and at length rise from their seats, throw their caps in the air, and applaud vehemently as the scene closes.*)

SCENE III. — *The Prado. A long avenue of trees leading to the gate of Atocha. On the right the dome and spires of a convent. A fountain. Evening. DON CARLOS and HYPOLITO meeting.*

Don C. *Hola!* good evening, Don Hypolito.

Hyp. And a good evening to my friend, Don Carlos.

Some lucky star has led my steps this way.

I was in search of you.

Don C. Command me always.

Hyp. Do you remember, in Quevedo's Dreams,

The miser, who, upon the Day of Judgment,

Asks if his money-bags would rise?

Don C. I do;

But what of that?

Hyp. I am that wretched man.

Don C. You mean to tell me yours have risen empty?

Hyp. And amen! said my Cid Campeador.

Don C. Pray, how much need you?

Hyp. Some half-dozen ounces, Which, with due interest—

Don C. (*giving his purse*). What, am I a Jew

To put my moneys out at usury ?
Here is my purse.

Hyp. Thank you. A pretty purse.
Made by the hand of some fair Madri-
leña ;
Perhaps a keepsake.

Don C. No, 't is at your service.

Hyp. Thank you again. Lie there,
good Chrysostom,
And with thy golden mouth remind
me often,
I am the debtor of my friend.

Don C. But tell me,
Come you to-day from Alcalá ?

Hyp. This moment. ²⁰

Don C. And pray, how fares the
brave Victorian ?

Hyp. Indifferent well ; that is to
say, not well.

A damsel has ensnared him with the
glances

Of her dark, roving eyes, as herdsmen
catch

A steer of Andalusia with a lazo.
He is in love.

Don C. And is it faring ill
To be in love ?

Hyp. In his case very ill.

Don C. Why so ?

Hyp. For many reasons. First and
foremost,

Because he is in love with an ideal :
A creature of his own imagination ; ³⁰
A child of air ; an echo of his
heart ;

And, like a lily on a river floating,
She floats upon the river of his
thoughts !

Don C. A common thing with poets.
But who is

This floating lily ? For, in fine, some
woman,

Some living woman, — not a mere
ideal, —

Must wear the outward semblance of
his thought.

Who is it ? Tell me.

Hyp. Well, it is a woman !

But, look you, from the coffer of his
heart

He brings forth precious jewels to
adorn her, ⁴⁰

As pious priests adorn some favorite
saint

With gems and gold, until at length
she gleams.

One blaze of glory. Without these,
you know,
And the priest's benediction, 't is a
doll.

Don C. Well, well ! who is this
doll ?

Hyp. Why, who do you think ?

Don C. His cousin Violante.

Hyp. Guess again.

To ease his laboring heart, in the last
storm

He threw her overboard, with all her
ingots.

Don C. I cannot guess ; so tell me
who it is.

Hyp. Not I.

Don C. Why not ?

Hyp. (*mysteriously*). Why ? Be-
cause Mari Franca ⁵⁰

Was married four leagues out of Sala-
manca !

Don C. Jestng aside, who is it ?

Hyp. Preciosa.

Don C. Impossible ! The Count of
Lara tells me

She is not virtuous.

Hyp. Did I say she was ?

The Roman Emperor Claudius had a
wife

Whose name was Messalina, as I think ;
Valeria Messalina was her name.

But hist ! I see him yonder through
the trees,

Walking as in a dream.

Don C. He comes this way.

Hyp. It has been truly said by some
wise man, ⁶⁰

That money, grief, and love cannot
be hidden.

(*Enter VICTORIAN in front.*)

Vict. Where'er thy step has passed
is holy ground !

These groves are sacred ! I behold
thee walking

Under these shadowy trees, where we
have walked

At evening, and I feel thy presence
now ;

Feel that the place has taken a charm
from thee,

And is forever hallowed.

Hyp. Mark him well !

See how he strides away with lordly
air,

Like that odd guest of stone, that grim
Commander

Who comes to sup with Juan in the
play. 70

Don C. What ho! Victorian!

Hyp. Wilt thou sup with us?

Vict. *Holá! amigos!* Faith, I did
not see you.

How fares Don Carlos?

Don C. At your service ever.

Hyp. But, speaking of green eyes,
Are thine green?

Vict. Not a whit. Why so?

Hyp. I think
The slightest shade of green would be
becoming.

For thou art jealous.

Vict. No, I am not jealous.

"*Holá! amigos. Faith, I did not see you.*"

Vict. How is that young and green-
eyed Gaditana

That you both wot of?

Don C. Ay, soft, emerald eyes!
She has gone back to Cadiz.

Hyp. Ay de mí!

Vict. You are much to blame for
letting her go back.

A pretty girl; and in her tender
eyes

Just that soft shade of green we some-
times see 79

in evening skies.

Hyp. Thou shouldst be.

Vict. Why?

Hyp. Because thou art in love.
And they who are in love are always
jealous.

Therefore thou shouldst be.

Vict. Marry, is that all?
Farewell; I am in haste. Farewell.

Don Carlos.

Thou sayest I should be jealous?

Hyp. Ay, in truth
I fear there is reason. Be upon thy
guard.

I hear it whispered that the Count of
Lara
Lays siege to the same citadel.

Vict. Indeed!
Then he will have his labor for his
pains.

Hyp. He does not think so, and Don
Carlos tells me
He boasts of his success.

Vict. How's this, Don Carlos?
Don C. Some hints of it I heard from
his own lips.

He spoke but lightly of the lady's
virtue,

As a gay man might speak.

Vict. Death and damnation!
I'll cut his lying tongue out of his
mouth,

And throw it to my dog! But, no,
no, no!

This cannot be. You jest, indeed you
jest:

Trifle with me no more. For other-
wise

We are no longer friends. And so,
farewell! [*Exit.*

Hyp. Now what a coil is here! The
Avenging Child

Hunting the traitor Quadros to his
death,

And the great Moor Calaynos, when
he rode

To Paris for the ears of Oliver,
Were nothing to him! O hot-headed
youth!

But come; we will not follow. Let
us join

The crowd that pours into the Prado.
There

We shall find merrier company; I
see

The Marialonzos and the Alnavivas,
And fifty fans, that beckon me already.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV. — PRECIOSA's chamber. *She
is sitting, with a book in her hand,
near a table, on which are flowers. A
bird singing in its cage. The COUNT
OF LARA enters behind unperceived.*

Prec. (reads).

All are sleeping, weary heart!

Thou, thou only sleepless art!

Heigho! I wish Victorian were here.
I know not what it is makes me so rest-
less!

(*The bird sings.*)

Thou little prisoner with thy motley
coat,

That from thy vaulted, wiry dungeon
singest,

Like thee I am a captive, and, like
thee,

I have a gentle jailer. Lack-a-day!

All are sleeping, weary heart!

Thou, thou only sleepless art!

All this throbbing, all this aching,

Evermore shall keep thee waking,

For a heart in sorrow breaking

Thinketh ever of its smart!

Thou speakest truly, poet! and me-
thinks

More hearts are breaking in this world
of ours

Than one would say. In distant vil-
lages

And solitudes remote, where winds
have wafted

The barbèd seeds of love, or birds of
passage

Scattered them in their flight, do they
take root,

And grow in silence, and in silence
perish.

Who hears the falling of the forest
leaf?

Or who takes note of every flower
that dies?

Heigho! I wish Victorian would come.
Dolores!

(*Turns to lay down her book, and per-
ceives the COUNT.*)

Ha!

Lara. Senora, pardon me!

Prec. How's this? Dolores!

Lara. Pardon me —

Prec. Dolores!

Lara. Be not alarmed; I found no
one in waiting.

If I have been too bold —

Prec. (turning her back upon him).

You are too bold!

Retire! retire, and leave me!

Lara. My dear lady,

First hear me! I beseech you, let me
speak!

'T is for your good I come.

*Prec. (turning toward him with in-
dignation).* Begone! begone!

You are the Count of Lara, but your
deeds

Would make the statues of your an-
cestors

Blush on their tombs! Is it Castilian
honor,

Is it Castilian pride, to steal in here
Upon a friendless girl, to do her wrong?

Oh shame! shame! shame! that you,
a nobleman,

Should be so little noble in your
thoughts

As to send jewels here to win my love,
And think to buy my honor with your
gold!

I have no words to tell you how I
scorn you!

Begone! The sight of you is hateful
to me!

Begone, I say!

Lara. Be calm; I will not harm
you.

Prec. Because you dare not.

Lara. I dare anything!
Therefore beware! You are deceived
in me.

In this false world, we do not always
know

Who are our friends and who our ene-
mies.

We all have enemies, and all need
friends.

Even you, fair Preciosa, here at court
Have foes, who seek to wrong you.

Prec. If to this
I owe the honor of the present visit,
You might have spared the coming.

Having spoken, ⁵²
Once more I beg you, leave me to my-
self.

Lara. I thought it but a friendly
part to tell you

What strange reports are current here
in town.

For my own self, I do not credit them;
But there are many who, not knowing
you,

Will lend a readier ear.

Prec. There was no need
That you should take upon yourself
the duty

Of telling me these tales.

Lara. Malicious tongues ⁶⁰
Are ever busy with your name.

Prec. Alas!
I've no protectors. I am a poor girl,
Exposed to insults and unfeeling
jest.

They wound me, yet I cannot shield
myself.

I give no cause for these reports. I
live

Retired; am visited by none.

Lara. By none?

Oh, then, indeed, you are much
wronged!

Prec. How mean you?

Lara. Nay, nay; I will not wound
your gentle soul

By the report of idle tales.

Prec. Speak out!

What are these idle tales? You need
not spare me. ⁷⁰

Lara. I will deal frankly with you.

Pardon me:

This window, as I think, looks towards
the street,

And this into the Prado, does it not?

In yon high house, behind the garden
wall,

You see the roof there just above the
trees, —

There lives a friend, who told me yes-
terday,

That on a certain night, — be not of-
fended

If I too plainly speak, — he saw a man
Climb to your chamber window. You
are silent!

I would not blame you, being young
and fair — ⁸⁰

(*He tries to embrace her. She starts
back, and draws a dagger from her
bosom.*)

Prec. Beware! beware! I am a
Gypsy girl!

Lay not your hand upon me. One
step nearer

And I will strike!

Lara. Pray you, put up that dagger.
Fear not.

Prec. I do not fear. I have a heart
In whose strength I can trust.

Lara. Listen to me.

I come here as your friend, — I am
your friend, —

And by a single word can put a stop
To all those idle tales, and make your
name

Spotless as lilies are. Here on my
knees,

Fair Preciosa! on my knees I swear, ⁹⁰
I love you even to madness, and that
love

Has driven me to break the rules of
custom,
And force myself unasked into your
presence.

(VICTORIAN *enters behind*).

Prec. Rise, Count of Lara! That
is not the place
For such as you are. It becomes you
not
To kneel before me. I am strangely
moved
To see one of your rank thus low and
humbled;
For your sake I will put aside all an-
ger,
All unkind feeling, all dislike, and
speak
In gentleness, as most becomes a
woman,
And as my heart now prompts me. I
no more
Will hate you, for all hate is painful
to me.
But if, without offending modesty
And that reserve which is a woman's
glory,
I may speak freely, I will teach my
heart
To love you.

Lara. O sweet angel!

Prec. Ay, in truth,
Far better than you love yourself or
me.

Lara. Give me some sign of this, —
the slightest token.
Let me but kiss your hand!

Prec. Nay, come no nearer.
The words I utter are its sign and to-
ken.

Misunderstand me not! Be not de-
ceived!

The love wherewith I love you is not
such

As you would offer me. For you
come here

To take from me the only thing I
have,

My honor. You are wealthy, you have
friends

And kindred, and a thousand pleasant
hopes

That fill your heart with happiness;
but I

Am poor, and friendless, having but
one treasure,

And you would take that from me,
and for what?

To flatter your own vanity, and make
me

What you would most despise. Oh,
sir, such love,

That seeks to harm me, cannot be true
love.

Indeed it cannot. But my love for
you

Is of a different kind. It seeks your
good.

It is a holier feeling. It rebukes
Your earthly passion, your unchaste
desires,

And bids you look into your heart, and
see

How you do wrong that better nature
in you,

And grieve your soul with sin.

Lara. I swear to you,
I would not harm you; I would only
love you.

I would not take your honor, but re-
store it,

And in return I ask but some slight
mark

Of your affection. If indeed you love
me,

As you confess you do, oh, let me
thus

With this embrace —

Vict. (rushing forward). Hold!
hold! This is too much.

What means this outrage?

Lara. First, what right have you
To question thus a nobleman of Spain?

Vict. I too am noble, and you are
no more!

Out of my sight!

Lara. Are you the master here?

Vict. Ay, here and elsewhere, when
the wrong of others

Gives me the right!

Prec. (to LARA). Go! I beseech
you, go!

Vict. I shall have business with
you, Count, anon!

Lara. You cannot come too soon!
[Exit.

Prec. Victorian!
Oh, we have been betrayed!

Vict. Ha! ha! betrayed!
'Tis I have been betrayed, not we! —
not we!

Prec. Dost thou imagine —

Vict. I imagine nothing ;
I see how 't is thou whilst the time
away
When I am gone !

Prec. Oh, speak not in that tone !
It wounds me deeply.

Vict. 'T was not meant to flatter.

Prec. Too well thou knowest the
presence of that man 150
Is hateful to me !

Vict. Yet I saw thee stand
And listen to him, when he told his
love.

Prec. I did not heed his words.

Vict. Indeed thou didst,
And answeredst them with love.

Prec. Hadst thou heard all —

Vict. I heard enough.

Prec. Be not so angry with me.

Vict. I am not angry ; I am very
calm.

Prec. If thou wilt let me speak —

Vict. Nay, say no more.
I know too much already. Thou art
false !

I do not like these Gypsy marriages !
Where is the ring I gave thee ?

Prec. In my casket. 160

Vict. There let it rest ! I would not
have thee wear it :

I thought thee spotless, and thou art
polluted !

Prec. I call the Heavens to witness —

Vict. Nay, nay, nay !
Take not the name of Heaven upon
thy lips !
They are forsworn !

Prec. Victorian ! dear Victorian !

Vict. I gave up all for thee ; my-
self, my fame,
My hopes of fortune, ay, my very soul !
And thou hast been my ruin ! Now,
go on !

Laugh at my folly with thy paramour
And, sitting on the Count of Lara's
knee, 170

Say what a poor, fond fool Victorian
was !

(*He casts her from him and rushes out.*)

Prec. And this from thee !

(*Scene closes.*)

SCENE V. — *The COUNT OF LARA'S
rooms. Enter the COUNT.*

Lara. There's nothing in this world
so sweet as love,

And next to love the sweetest thing is
hate !

I've learned to hate, and therefore am
revenged.

A silly girl to play the prude with me !
The fire that I have kindled —

(*Enter FRANCISCO.*)

Well, Francisco,
What tidings from Don Juan ?

Fran. Good, my lord ;
He will be present.

Lara. And the Duke of Lermos !

Fran. Was not at home.

Lara. How with the rest ?

Fran. I've found
The men you wanted. They will all
be there,

And at the given signal raise a whirl-
wind 10

Of such discordant noises, that the
dance

Must cease for lack of music.

Lara. Bravely done.
Ah ! little dost thou dream, sweet Pre-
ciosa,

What lies in wait for thee. Sleep
shall not close

Thine eyes this night ! Give me my
cloak and sword. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI. — *A retired spot beyond the
city gates. Enter VICTORIAN and
HYPOLITO.*

Vict. Oh shame ! Oh shame ! Why
do I walk abroad

By daylight, when the very sunshine
mocks me,

And voices, and familiar sights and
sounds

Cry, "Hide thyself !" Oh, what a
thin partition

Doth shut out from the curious world
the knowledge

Of evil deeds that have been done in
darkness !

Disgrace has many tongues. My fears
are windows,

Through which all eyes seem gazing.
Every face

Expresses some suspicion of my
shame.

And in derision seems to smile at
me ! 10

Hyp. Did I not caution thee ? Did
I not tell thee

I was but half persuaded of her virtue ?

Vict. And yet, Hypolito, we may be wrong,

We may be over-hasty in condemning!
The Count of Lara is a cursèd villain.

Hyp. And therefore is she cursed,
loving him.

Vict. She does not love him! 'T is
for gold! for gold!

Hyp. Ay, but remember, in the
public streets
He shows a golden ring the Gypsy
gave him,

A serpent with a ruby in its mouth. ²⁰

Vict. She had that ring from me!
God! she is false;
But I will be revenged! The hour is
passed.

Where stays the coward?

Hyp. Nay, he is no coward;
A villain, if thou wilt, but not a
coward.

I've seen him play with swords; it is
his pastime.

And therefore be not over-confident,
He'll task thy skill anon. Look, here
he comes.

(*Enter LARA followed by FRANCISCO.*)

Lara. Good evening, gentlemen.

Hyp. Good evening, Count.

Lara. I trust I have not kept you
long in waiting.

Vict. Not long, and yet too long.
Are you prepared? ³⁰

Lara. I am.

Hyp. It grieves me much to see this
quarrel

Between you, gentlemen. Is there no
way

Left open to accord this difference,
But you must make one with your
swords?

Vict. No! none!
I do entreat thee, dear Hypolito,
Stand not between me and my foe.
Too long

Our tongues have spoken. Let these
tongues of steel
End our debate. Upon your guard,
Sir Count.

(*They fight. VICTORIAN disarms the
COUNT.*)

Your life is mine; and what shall now
withhold me
From sending your vile soul to its ac-
count? ⁴⁰

Lara. Strike! strike!

Vict. You are disarmed. I will not
kill you.
I will not murder you. Take up your
sword.

(*FRANCISCO hands the COUNT his
sword, and HYPOLITO interposes.*)

Hyp. Enough! Let it end here!
The Count of Lara
Has shown himself a brave man, and
Victorian

A generous one, as ever. Now be
friends.

Put up your swords; for, to speak
frankly to you,
Your cause of quarrel is too slight a
thing

To move you to extremes.

Lara. I am content.
I sought no quarrel. A few hasty
words,

Spoken in the heat of blood, have led
to this. ⁵⁰

Vict. Nay, something more than
that.

Lara. I understand you.
Therein I did not mean to cross your
path.

To me the door stood open, as to
others.

But, had I known the girl belonged
to you,

Never would I have sought to win her
from you.

The truth stands now revealed; she
has been false
To both of us.

Vict. Ay, false as hell itself!

Lara. In truth, I did not seek her;
she sought me;

And told me how to win her, telling
me

The hours when she was oftenest left
alone. ⁶⁰

Vict. Say, can you prove this to me?
Oh, pluck out

These awful doubts, that goad me
into madness!

Let me know all! all! all!

Lara. You shall know all.
Here is my page, who was the mes-
senger

Between us. Question him. Was it
not so, Francisco?

Fran. Ay, my lord.

Lara. If further proof
Is needful, I have here a ring she gave
me.

Vict. Pray let me see that ring! It
is the same!
(*Throws it upon the ground, and tramples upon it.*)

Thus may she perish who once wore
that ring!

Thus do I spurn her from me; do thus
trample

Her memory in the dust! O Count of
Lara,

We both have been abused, been much
abused!

I thank you for your courtesy and
frankness.

Though, like the surgeon's hand,
yours gave me pain,

Yet it has cured my blindness, and I
thank you.

I now can see the folly I have done,
Though 'tis, alas! too late. So fare
you well!

To-night I leave this hateful town
forever.

Regard me as your friend. Once
more farewell!

Hyp. Farewell, Sir Count.

[*Exeunt* VICTORIAN and HYPOLITO.]

Lara. Farewell! farewell! fare-
well!

Thus have I cleared the field of my
worst foe!

I have none else to fear; the fight is
done,

The citadel is stormed, the victory
won! [*Exit with* FRANCISCO.]

SCENE VII. — *A lane in the suburbs.*

Night. Enter CRUZADO and BAR-
TOLOMÉ.

Cruz. And so, Bartolomé, the expe-
dition failed. But where wast thou
for the most part?

Bart. In the Guadarrama moun-
tains, near San Ildefonso.

Cruz. And thou bringest nothing
back with thee? Didst thou rob no
one?

Bart. There was no one to rob,
save a party of students from Segovia,
who looked as if they would rob us;
and a jolly little friar, who had no-
thing in his pockets but a missal and a
loaf of bread.

Cruz. Pray, then, what brings thee
back to Madrid?

Bart. First tell me what keeps thee
here?

Cruz. Preciosa.

Bart. And she brings me back.
Hast thou forgotten thy promise?

Cruz. The two years are not passed
yet. Wait patiently. The girl shall
be thine.

Bart. I hear she has a Busné lover.

Cruz. That is nothing.

Bart. I do not like it. I hate him,
—the son of a Busné harlot. He goes
in and out, and speaks with her alone,
and I must stand aside, and wait his
pleasure.

Cruz. Be patient, I say. Thou
shalt have thy revenge. When the
time comes, thou shalt waylay him.

Bart. Meanwhile, show me her
house.

Cruz. Come this way. But thou
wilt not find her. She dances at the
play to-night.

Bart. No matter. Show me the
house. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VIII. — *The Theatre. The or-
chestra plays the cachucha. Sound
of castanets behind the scenes. The
curtain rises, and discovers PRE-
CIOSA in the attitude of commencing
the dance. The cachucha. Tumult;
hisses; cries of "Brava!" and
"Afuera!" She falters and pauses.
The music stops. General confusion.
PRECIOSA faints.*

SCENE IX. — *The COUNT OF LARA'S
chambers. LARA and his friends at
supper.*

Lara. So, Caballeros, once more
many thanks!

You have stood by me bravely in this
matter.

Pray fill your glasses.

Don J. Did you mark, Don Luis,
How pale she looked, when first the
noise began,

And then stood still, with her large
eyes dilated!

Her nostrils spread! her lips apart:
her bosom

Tumultuous as the sea!

Don L.

I pitied her

Lara. Her pride is humbled ; and
this very night
I mean to visit her.

Don J. Will you serenade her ?

Lara. No music ! no more music !

Don L. Why not music ? 10
It softens many hearts.

Lara. Not in the humor
She now is in. Music would madden
her.

Don J. Try golden cymbals.

Don L. Yes, try Don Dinero ;
A mighty wooer is your Don Dinero.

Lara. To tell the truth, then, I have
bribed her maid.
But, Caballeros, you dislike this wine.
A bumper and away ; for the night
wears.

A health to Preciosa.

(They rise and drink.)

All. Preciosa.

Lara (holding up his glass). Thou
bright and flaming minister of
Love !

Thou wonderful magician ! who hast
stolen 20

My secret from me, and 'mid sighs of
passion

Caught from my lips, with red and
fiery tongue,

Her precious name ! Oh nevermore
henceforth

Shall mortal lips press thine ; and
nevermore

A mortal name be whispered in thine
ear.

Go ! keep my secret !

(Drinks and dashes the goblet down.)

Don J. Ite ! missa est !

(Scene closes.)

SCENE X. — Street and garden wall.

Night. Enter CRUZADO and BAR-
TOLOMÉ.

Cruz. This is the garden wall, and
above it, yonder, is her house. The
window in which thou seest the light
is her window. But we will not go
in now.

Bart. Why not ?

Cruz. Because she is not at home.

Bart. No matter ; we can wait.
But how is this ? The gate is bolted.
*(Sound of guitars and voices in a
neighboring street.)* Hark ! There

comes her lover with his infernal sere-
nade ! Hark !

SONG

Good night ! Good night, beloved !
I come to watch o'er thee !
To be near thee, — to be near thee,
Alone is peace for me.

Thine eyes are stars of morning,
Thy lips are crimson flowers !
Good night ! Good night, beloved, 20
While I count the weary hours.

Cruz. They are not coming this
way.

Bart. Wait, they begin again.

SONG (coming nearer)

Ah ! thou moon that shinest
Argent-clear above !
All night long enlighten
My sweet lady-love ;
Moon that shinest,
All night long enlighten !

Bart. Woe be to him, if he comes
this way ! 30

Cruz. Be quiet, they are passing
down the street.

SONG (dying away)

The nuns in the cloister
Sang to each other ;
For so many sisters
Is there not one brother !
Ay, for the partridge, mother !
The cat has run away with the partridge !
Puss ! puss ! puss !

Bart. Follow that ! follow that !
Come with me. Puss ! puss ! 40

*(Exeunt. On the opposite side enter
the COUNT OF LARA and gentlemen
with FRANCISCO.)*

Lara. The gate is fast. Over the
wall, Francisco,
And draw the bolt. There, so, and
so, and over.

Now, gentlemen, come in, and help
me scale

Yon balcony. How now ? Her light
still burns.

Move warily. Make fast the gate,
Francisco.

*(Exeunt. Reënter CRUZADO and BAR-
TOLOMÉ.)*

Bart. They went in at the gate.
Hark ! I hear them in the garden.

(*Tries the gate.*) Bolted again! Vive Cristo! Follow me over the wall.
(*They climb the wall.*)

SCENE XI. — PRECIOSA'S *bedchamber*.
Midnight. She is sleeping in an arm-chair, in an undress. DOLORES watching her.

Dol. She sleeps at last!
(*Opens the window, and listens.*)

All silent in the street,
And in the garden. Hark!

Prec. (*in her sleep*). I must go hence!

Give me my cloak!

Dol. He comes! I hear his footsteps.

Prec. Go tell them that I cannot dance to-night;
I am too ill! Look at me! See the fever

That burns upon my cheek! I must go hence.

I am too weak to dance.

(*Signal from the garden.*)

Dol. (*from the window*). Who's there?

Voice (*from below*). A friend.

Dol. I will undo the door. Wait till I come.

Prec. I must go hence. I pray you do not harm me!

Shame! shame! to treat a feeble woman thus!

Be you but kind, I will do all things for you.

I am ready now, — give me my castanets.

Where is Victorian? Oh, those hateful lamps!

They glare upon me like an evil eye. I cannot stay. Hark! how they

mock at me!

They hiss at me like serpents! Save me! save me!

(*She wakes.*)

How late is it, Dolores?

Dol. It is midnight.

Prec. We must be patient. Smooth this pillow for me.

(*She sleeps again. Noise from the garden, and voices.*)

Voice. Muera!

Another voice. O villains! villains!

Lara. So! have at you!

Voice. Take that!

Lara. Oh, I am wounded!

Dol. (*shutting the window*). Jesu Maria!

20

ACT III

SCENE I. — A cross-road through a wood. In the background a distant village spire. VICTORIAN and HYPOLITO, as travelling students, with guitars, sitting under the trees. HYPOLITO plays and sings.

SONG

Ah, Love!

Perjured, false, treacherous Love!

Enemy

Of all that mankind may not rue!

Most untrue

To him who keeps most faith with thee.

Woe is me!

The falcon has the eyes of the dove.

Ah, Love!

Perjured, false, treacherous Love!

10

Vict. Yes, Love is ever busy with his shuttle,

Is ever weaving into life's dull warp Bright, gorgeous flowers and scenes

Arcadian;

Hanging our gloomy prison-house about

With tapestries, that make its walls dilate

In never-ending vistas of delight.

Hyp. Thinking to walk in those Arcadian pastures,

Thou hast run thy noble head against the wall.

SONG (*continued*)

Thy deceits

Give us clearly to comprehend,

20

Whither tend

All thy pleasures, all thy sweets!

They are cheats,

Thorns below and flowers above.

Ah, Love!

Perjured, false, treacherous Love!

Vict. A very pretty song. I thank thee for it.

Hyp. It suits thy case.

Vict. Indeed, I think it does.

What wise man wrote it?

Hyp. Lopez Maldonado.

Vict. In truth, a pretty song.

Hyp. With much truth in it.

30

I hope thou wilt profit by it; and in earnest

Try to forget this lady of thy love.

Vict. I will forget her! All dear recollections
Pressed in my heart, like flowers within a book,
Shall be torn out, and scattered to the winds!

I will forget her! But perhaps hereafter,

When she shall learn how heartless is the world,

A voice within her will repeat my name,

And she will say, "He was indeed my friend!"

Oh, would I were a soldier, not a scholar,

That the loud march, the deafening⁴⁰ beat of drums,

The shattering blast of the brass-throated trumpet,

The din of arms, the onslaught and the storm,

And a swift death, might make me deaf forever

To the upbraidings of this foolish heart!

Hyp. Then let that foolish heart upbraid no more!

To conquer love, one need but will to conquer.

Vict. Yet, good Hypolito, it is in vain

I throw into Oblivion's sea the sword
That pierces me; for, like Excalibar,
With gemmed and flashing hilt, it will not sink.

There rises from below a hand that grasps it,

And waves it in the air; and wailing voices

Are heard along the shore.

Hyp. And yet at last
Down sank Excalibar to rise no more.
This is not well. In truth, it vexes me.
Instead of whistling to the steeds of Time,

To make them jog on merrily with life's burden,

Like a dead weight thou hangest on the wheels.

Thou art too young, too full of lusty health

To talk of dying.⁶⁰

Vict. Yet I fain would die!
To go through life, unloving and unloved;

To feel that thirst and hunger of the soul

We cannot still; that longing, that wild impulse,

And struggle after something we have not

And cannot have; the effort to be strong;

And, like the Spartan boy, to smile, and smile,

While secret wounds do bleed beneath our cloaks;

All this the dead feel not, — the dead alone!

Would I were with them!

Hyp. We shall all be soon.⁷⁰

Vict. It cannot be too soon; for I am weary

Of the bewildering masquerade of Life,

Where strangers walk as friends, and friends as strangers;

Where whispers overheard betray false hearts;

And through the mazes of the crowd we chase

Some form of loveliness, that smiles, and beckons,

And cheats us with fair words, only to leave us

A mockery and a jest; maddened, — confused, —

Not knowing friend from foe.

Hyp. Why seek to know?
Enjoy the merry shrove-tide of thy youth!

Take each fair mask for what it gives itself,

Nor strive to look beneath it.

Vict. I confess,
That were the wiser part. But Hope no longer

Comforts my soul. I am a wretched man,

Much like a poor and shipwrecked mariner,

Who, struggling to climb up into the boat,

Has both his bruised and bleeding hands cut off,

And sinks again into the weltering sea, Helpless and hopeless!

Hyp. Yet thou shalt not perish.

The strength of thine own arm is thy
salvation. ⁹⁰

Above thy head, through rifted clouds,
there shines

A glorious star. Be patient. Trust
thy star!

(*Sound of a village bell in the distance.*)

Vict. Ave Maria! I hear the sacris-
tan

Ringing the chimes from yonder vil-
lage belfry!

A solemn sound, that echoes far and
wide

Over the red roofs of the cottages,
And bids the laboring hind afield, the
shepherd,

Guarding his flock, the lonely mule-
teer,

And all the crowd in village streets,
stand still,

And breathe a prayer unto the blessed
Virgin! ¹⁰⁰

Hyp. Amen! amen! Not half a
league from hence

The village lies.

Vict. This path will lead us to it.
Over the wheat-fields, where the shad-
ows sail

Across the running sea, now green,
now blue,

And, like an idle mariner on the main,
Whistles the quail. Come, let us
hasten on. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. — *Public square in the vil-
lage of Guadarrama. The Ave
Maria still tolling. A crowd of vil-
lagers, with their hats in their hands,
as if in prayer. In front, a group
of Gypsies. The bell rings a merrier
peal. A Gypsy dance. Enter*

PANCHO, followed by PEDRO CRESPO.

Pancho. Make room, ye vagabonds
and Gypsy thieves!

Make room for the Alcalde and for
me!

Pedro C. Keep silence all! I have
an edict here

From our most gracious lord, the King
of Spain,

Jerusalem, and the Canary Islands,
Which I shall publish in the market-
place.

Open your ears and listen!

(*Enter the PADRE CURA at the door of
his cottage.*)

Padre Cura,
Good day! and, pray you, hear this
edict read.

Padre C. Good day, and God be
with you! Pray, what is it?

Pedro C. An act of banishment
against the Gypsies! ¹⁰

(*Agitation and murmurs in the crowd.*)

Pancho. Silence!

Pedro C. (reads). "I hereby order
and command,

That the Egyptian and Chaldean
strangers,

Known by the name of Gypsies, shall
henceforth

Be banished from the realm, as vaga-
bonds

And beggars; and if, after seventy
days,

Any be found within our kingdom's
bounds,

They shall receive a hundred lashes
each;

The second time, shall have their ears
cut off;

The third, be slaves for life to him
who takes them,

Or burnt as heretics. Signed, I, the
King." ²⁰

Vile miscreants and creatures unbap-
tized!

You hear the law! Obey and disap-
pear!

Pancho. And if in seventy days
you are not gone,

Dead or alive I make you all my slaves.

(*The Gypsies go out in confusion, show-
ing signs of fear and discontent.
PANCHO follows.*)

Padre C. A righteous law! A very
righteous law!

Pray you, sit down.

Pedro C. I thank you heartily.

(*They seat themselves on a bench at the
PADRE CURA'S door. Sound of gui-
tars heard at a distance, approach-
ing during the dialogue which fol-
lows.*)

A very righteous judgment, as you
say.

Now tell me, Padre Cura, — you know
all things, —

How came these Gypsies into Spain?

Padre C. Why, look you;

They came with Hercules from Palestine,
And hence are thieves and vagrants,
Sir Alcalde,
As the Simoniacs from Simon Magus.
And, look you, as Fray Jayme Bleda
says,
There are a hundred marks to prove a
Moor
Is not a Christian, so 'tis with the
Gypsies.

They never marry, never go to mass,
Never baptize their children, nor keep
Lent,
Nor see the inside of a church, nor —
nor —

Pedro C. Good reasons, good, substantial reasons all!
No matter for the other ninety-five.
They should be burnt, I see it plain
enough,
They should be burnt.

(Enter VICTORIAN and HYPOLITO
playing.)

Padre C. And pray, whom have we
here?

Pedro C. More vagrants! By Saint
Lazarus, more vagrants!

Hyp. Good evening, gentlemen!
Is this Guadarrama?

Padre C. Yes, Guadarrama, and
good evening to you.

Hyp. We seek the Padre Cura of
the village;
And, judging from your dress and reverend mien,
You must be he.

Padre C. I am. Pray, what's your
pleasure?

Hyp. We are poor students traveling
in vacation.
You know this mark?

(Touching the wooden spoon in his hat-
band.)

Padre C. (joyfully). Ay, know it,
and have worn it.

Pedro C. (aside). Soup-eaters! by the
mass! The worst of vagrants!
And there's no law against them. Sir,
your servant. [Exit.

Padre C. Your servant, Pedro
Crespo.

Hyp. Padre Cura,
From the first moment I beheld your
face,

I said within myself, "This is the
man!"

There is a certain something in your
looks,

A certain scholar-like and studious
something, —

You understand, — which cannot be
mistaken;

Which marks you as a very learned
man,

In fine, as one of us.

Vict. (aside). What impudence! 60

Hyp. As we approached, I said to
my companion,

"That is the Padre Cura; mark my
words!"

Meaning your Grace. "The other
man," said I,

"Who sits so awkwardly upon the
bench,

Must be the sacristan."

Padre C. Ah! said you so?
Why, that was Pedro Crespo, the Al-
calde!

Hyp. Indeed! you much astonish
me! His air

Was not so full of dignity and grace
As an alcalde's should be.

Padre C. That is true.
He's out of humor with some vagrant
Gypsies,

Who have their camp here in the
neighborhood. 70

There's nothing so undignified as an-
ger.

Hyp. The Padre Cura will excuse
our boldness,

If, from his well-known hospitality,
We crave a lodging for the night.

Padre C. I pray you!
You do me honor! I am but too
happy

To have such guests beneath my hum-
ble roof.

It is not often that I have occasion
To speak with scholars; and *Emollit*
mores,

Nec sinit esse feros, Cicero says. 80

Hyp. 'Tis Ovid, is it not?

Padre C. No, Cicero.

Hyp. Your Grace is right. You are
the better scholar.

Now what a dunce was I to think it
Ovid!

But hang me if it is not! (*Aside.*)
Padre C. Pass this way.

He was a very great man, was Cicero!
Pray you, go in, go in! no ceremony.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. — *A room in the PADRE CURA's house. Enter the PADRE and HYPOLITO.*

Padre C. So then, Señor, you come from Alcalá.

I am glad to hear it. It was there I studied.

Hyp. And left behind an honored name, no doubt.

How may I call your Grace?

Padre C. Gerónimo De Santillana, at your Honor's service.

Hyp. Descended from the Marquis Santillana?

From the distinguished poet?

Padre C. From the Marquis, Not from the poet.

Hyp. Why, they were the same. Let me embrace you! Oh, some lucky star

Has brought me hither! Yet once more! — once more! ¹⁰

Your name is ever green in Alcalá, And our professor, when we are unruly,

Will shake his hoary head, and say, "Alas!

It was not so in Santillana's time!"

Padre C. I did not think my name remembered there.

Hyp. More than remembered; it is idolized.

Padre C. Of what professor speak you?

Hyp. Timoneda.

Padre C. I don't remember any Timoneda.

Hyp. A grave and sombre man, whose beetling brow

O'erhangs the rushing current of his speech ²⁰

As rocks o'er rivers hang. Have you forgotten?

Padre C. Indeed, I have. Oh, those were pleasant days, Those college days! I ne'er shall see the like!

I had not buried then so many hopes! I had not buried then so many friends! I've turned my back on what was then before me;

And the bright faces of my young companions
Are wrinkled like my own, or are no more.

Do you remember Cueva?

Hyp. Cueva? Cueva?

Padre C. Fool that I am! He was before your time.

You're a mere boy, and I am an old man. ³⁰

Hyp. I should not like to try my strength with you.

Padre C. Well, well. But I forget; you must be hungry.

Martina! ho! Martina! 'T is my niece.

(*Enter MARTINA.*)

Hyp. You may be proud of such a niece as that.

I wish I had a niece. *Emollit mores.* (*Aside.*)

He was a very great man, was Cicero! Your servant, fair Martina.

Mart. Servant, sir.

Padre C. This gentleman is hungry. See thou to it.

Let us have supper.

Mart. 'T will be ready soon. ⁴⁰

Padre C. And bring a bottle of my Valde-Peñas

Out of the cellar. Stay; I'll go myself. Pray you, Señor, excuse me. [*Exit.*]

Hyp. Hist! Martina! One word with you. Bless me! what handsome eyes!

To-day there have been Gypsies in the village.

Is it not so?

Mart. There have been Gypsies here.

Hyp. Yes, and have told your fortune?

Mart. (*embarrassed*). Told my fortune?

Hyp. Yes, yes; I know they did. Give me your hand.

I'll tell you what they said. They said,—they said,

The shepherd boy that loved you was a clown, ⁵⁰

And him you should not marry. Was it not?

Mart. (*surprised*). How know you that?

Hyp. Oh, I know more than that. What a soft little hand! And then they said,

A cavalier from court, handsome, and tall,
And rich, should come one day to marry you,
And you should be a lady. Was it not?
He has arrived, the handsome cavalier.
(*Tries to kiss her. She runs off. Enter VICTORIAN, with a letter.*)

Vict. The muleteer has come.

Hyp. So soon?

Vict. I found him
Sitting at supper by the tavern door,
And, from a pitcher that he held aloft
His whole arm's length, drinking the blood-red wine.

Hyp. What news from Court?

Vict. He brought this letter only.
(*Reads.*)

Oh, cursèd perfidy! Why did I let
That lying tongue deceive me! Preciosa,
Sweet Preciosa! how art thou avenged!

Hyp. What news is this, that makes
thy cheek turn pale,
And thy hand tremble?

Vict. Oh, most infamous!
The Count of Lara is a worthless villain!

Hyp. That is no news, forsooth.

Vict. He strove in vain
To steal from me the jewel of my soul,
The love of Preciosa. Not succeeding,
He swore to be revenged; and set on foot
A plot to ruin her, which has succeeded.

She has been hissed and hooted from the stage,
Her reputation stained by slanderous lies
Too foul to speak of; and, once more a beggar,
She roams a wanderer over God's green earth,
Housing with Gypsies!

Hyp. To renew again
The Age of Gold, and make the shepherd swains

Desperate with love, like Gasper Gil's Diana.

Redit et Virgo!

Vict. Dear Hypolito,
How have I wronged that meek, confiding heart!

I will go seek for her; and with my tears

Wash out the wrong I've done her!

Hyp. Oh, beware!
Act not that folly o'er again.

Vict. Ay, folly,
Delusion, madness, call it what thou wilt,

I will confess my weakness, — I still love her!

Still fondly love her!

(*Enter the PADRE CURA.*)

Hyp. Tell us, Padre Cura,
Who are these Gypsies in the neighborhood?

Padre C. Beltran Cruzado and his crew.

Vict. Kind Heaven,
I thank thee! She is found! is found again!

Hyp. And have they with them a pale, beautiful girl,
Called Preciosa?

Padre C. Ay, a pretty girl.
The gentleman seems moved.

Hyp. Yes, moved with hunger,
He is half famished with this long day's journey.

Padre C. Then, pray you, come this way. The supper waits.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV. — *A post-house on the road to Segovia, not far from the village of Guadarrama. Enter CHISPA, cracking a whip, and singing the cachucha.*

Chispa. Halloo! Don Fulano! Let us have horses, and quickly. Alas, poor Chispa! what a dog's life dost thou lead! I thought, when I left my old master Victorian, the student, to serve my new master Don Carlos, the gentleman, that I, too, should lead the life of a gentleman; should go to bed early, and get up late. For when the abbot plays cards, what can you expect of the friars? But, in running away from the thunder, I have run into the lightning. Here I am in hot chase after my master and his Gypsy girl. And a good beginning of the week it

is, as he said who was hanged on Monday morning.

(Enter DON CARLOS.)

Don C. Are not the horses ready yet?

Chispa. I should think not, for the hostler seems to be asleep. Ho! within there! Horses! horses! horses! (He knocks at the gate with his whip, and enter MOSQUITO, putting on his jacket.)

Mosq. Are you from Madrid?

Chispa. Yes; and going to Estramadura. Get us horses.

Mosq. What's the news at Court?

Chispa. Why, the latest news is, that I am going to set up a coach, and I have already bought the whip.

(Strikes him round the legs.)

Mosq. Oh! oh! you hurt me!

Don C. Enough of this folly. Let

"Are not the horses ready yet?"

Mosq. Pray, have a little patience. I'm not a musket.

Chispa. Health and pistareens! I'm glad to see you come on dancing, padre! Pray, what's the news?

Mosq. You cannot have fresh horses; because there are none.

Chispa. Cachiporra! Throw that bone to another dog. Do I look like your aunt?

Mosq. No; she has a beard.

Chispa. Go to! go to!

us have horses. (Gives money to Mosquito.) It is almost dark; and we are in haste. But tell me, has a band of Gypsies passed this way of late?

Mosq. Yes; and they are still in the neighborhood.

Don C. And where?

Mosq. Across the fields yonder, in the woods near Guadarrama. [Exit.]

Don C. Now this is lucky. We will visit the Gypsy camp.

Chispa. Are you not afraid of the

evil eye? Have you a stag's horn with you?

Don C. Fear not. We will pass the night at the village.

Chispa. And sleep like the Squires of Hernan Daza, nine under one blanket.

Don C. I hope we may find the Preciosa among them.

Chispa. Among the Squires?

Don C. No; among the Gypsies, blockhead!

Chispa. I hope we may; for we are giving ourselves trouble enough on her account. Don't you think so? However, there is no catching trout without wetting one's trousers. Yonder come the horses. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE V. — *The Gypsy camp in the forest. Night. Gypsies working at a forge. Others playing cards by the firelight.*

Gypsies (at the forge sing).

On the top of a mountain I stand,
With a crown of red gold in my hand,
Wild Moors come trooping over the lea,
Oh how from their fury shall I flee, flee,
flee?

Oh how from their fury shall I flee?

First Gypsy (playing). Down with your John-Dorados, my pigeon. Down with your John-Dorados, and let us make an end.

Gypsies (at the forge sing).

Loud sang the Spanish cavalier, 10
And thus his ditty ran;
God send the Gypsy lassie here,
And not the Gypsy man.

First Gypsy (playing). There you are in your morocco!

Second Gypsy. One more game. The Alcalde's doves against the Padre Cura's new moon.

First Gypsy. Have at you, Chirelin.

Gypsies (at the forge sing).

At midnight, when the moon began 20
To show her silver flame,
There came to him no Gypsy man,
The Gypsy lassie came.

(Enter BELTRAN CRUZADO.)

Cruz. Come hither, Murcigalleros and Rastilleros; leave work, leave play; listen to your orders for the

night. *(Speaking to the right.)* You will get you to the village, mark you, by the stone cross.

Gypsies. Ay!

Cruz. (to the left). And you, by the pole with the hermit's head upon it.

Gypsies. Ay!

Cruz. As soon as you see the planets are out, in with you, and be busy with the ten commandments, under the sly, and Saint Martin asleep. D'ye hear?

Gypsies. Ay!

Cruz. Keep your lanterns open, and, if you see a goblin or a papagayo, take to your trampers. Vineyards and Dancing John is the word. Am I comprehended?

Gypsies. Ay! ay!

Cruz. Away, then!

(Exeunt severally. CRUZADO walks up the stage, and disappears among the trees. Enter PRECIOSA.)

Prec. How strangely gleams through the gigantic trees,
The red light of the forge! Wild, beckoning shadows
Stalk through the forest, ever and anon

Rising and bending with the flickering flame,

Then fitting into darkness! So within me

Strange hopes and fears do beckon to each other,

My brightest hopes giving dark fears a being

As the light does the shadow. Woe is me!

How still it is about me, and how lonely!

(BARTOLOMÉ rushes in.)

Bart. Ho! Preciosa!

Prec. O Bartolomé! Thou here?

Bart. Lo! I am here.

Prec. Whence comest thou?

Bart. From the rough ridges of the wild Sierra,
From caverns in the rocks, from hunger, thirst,

And fever! Like a wild wolf to the sheepfold

Come I for thee, my lamb.

Prec. Oh, touch me not! 60

The Count of Lara's blood is on thy hands!

The Count of Lara's curse is on thy soul!

Do not come near me! Pray, begone from here!

Thou art in danger! They have set a price

Upon thy head!

Bart. Ay, and I've wandered long
Among the mountains; and for many days

Have seen no human face, save the rough swineherd's.

The wind and rain have been my sole companions.

I shouted to them from the rocks thy name,

And the loud echo sent it back to me,
Till I grew mad. I could not stay from thee,

And I am here! Betray me, if thou wilt.

Prec. Betray thee? I betray thee?

Bart. Preciosa!

I come for thee! for thee I thus brave death!

Fly with me o'er the borders of this realm!

Fly with me!

Prec. Speak of that no more. I cannot.

I'm thine no longer.

Bart. Oh, recall the time

When we were children! how we played together,

How we grew up together; how we plighted

Our hearts unto each other, even in childhood!

Fulfil thy promise, for the hour has come.

I'm hunted from the kingdom, like a wolf!

Fulfil thy promise.

Prec. 'T was my father's promise, Not mine. I never gave my heart to thee,

Nor promised thee my hand!

Bart. False tongue of woman! And heart more false!

Prec. Nay, listen unto me. I will speak frankly. I have never loved thee;

I cannot love thee. This is not my fault,

It is my destiny. Thou art a man Restless and violent. What wouldst thou with me,

A feeble girl, who have not long to live,

Whose heart is broken? Seek another wife,

Better than I, and fairer; and let not Thy rash and headlong moods estrange her from thee.

Thou art unhappy in this hopeless passion.

I never sought thy love; never did aught

To make thee love me. Yet I pity thee,

And most of all I pity thy wild heart, That hurries thee to crimes and deeds of blood.

Beware, beware of that.

Bart. For thy dear sake I will be gentle. Thou shalt teach me patience.

Prec. Then take this farewell, and depart in peace.

Thou must not linger here.

Bart. Come, come with me.

Prec. Hark! I hear footsteps.

Bart. I entreat thee, come!

Prec. Away! It is in vain.

Bart. Wilt thou not come?

Prec. Never!

Bart. Then woe, eternal woe, upon thee!

Thou shalt not be another's. Thou shalt die. *[Exit.]*

Prec. All holy angels keep me in this hour!

Spirit of her who bore me, look upon me!

Mother of God, the glorified, protect me!

Christ and the saints, be merciful unto me!

Yet why should I fear death? What is it to die?

To leave all disappointment, care, and sorrow,

To leave all falsehood, treachery, and unkindness.

All ignominy, suffering, and despair, And be at rest forever! O dull heart,

Be of good cheer! When thou shalt cease to beat,

Then shalt thou cease to suffer and complain!

(Enter VICTORIAN and HYPOLITO behind.)

Vict. 'T is she! Behold, how beautiful she stands 120
Under the tent-like trees!

Hyp. A woodland nymph!

Vict. I pray thee, stand aside.
Leave me.

Hyp. Be wary.
Do not betray thyself too soon.

Vict. (*disguising his voice*). Hist!
Gypsy!

Prec. (*aside, with emotion*). That voice! that voice from heaven!
Oh, speak again!

Who is it calls?

Vict. A friend.

Prec. (*aside*). 'T is he! 'T is he!
I thank thee, Heaven, that thou hast heard my prayer,
And sent me this protector! Now be strong,
Be strong, my heart! I must dissemble here.

False friend or true?

Vict. A true friend to the true;
Fear not; come hither. So; can you tell fortunes? 130

Prec. Not in the dark. Come nearer to the fire.

Give me your hand. It is not crossed, I see.

Vict. (*putting a piece of gold into her hand*). There is the cross.

Prec. Is't silver?

Vict. No, 't is gold.

Prec. There's a fair lady at the Court, who loves you,
And for yourself alone.

Vict. Fie! the old story!
Tell me a better fortune for my money;
Not this old woman's tale!

Prec. You are passionate;
And this same passionate humor in your blood

Has marred your fortune. Yes; I see it now;

The line of life is crossed by many marks. 140

Shame! shame! Oh, you have wronged the maid who loved you!

How could you do it?

Vict. I never loved a maid;
For she I loved was then a maid no more.

Prec. How know you that?

Vict. A little bird in the air
Whispered the secret.

Prec. There, take back your gold!
Your hand is cold, like a deceiver's hand!

There is no blessing in its charity!
Make her your wife, for you have been abused;

And you shall mend your fortunes,
mending hers. 149

Vict. (*aside*). How like an angel's speaks the tongue of woman.
When pleading in another's cause her own!

That is a pretty ring upon your finger.
Pray give it me. (*Tries to take the ring*.)

Prec. No; never from my hand
Shall that be taken!

Vict. Why, 't is but a ring.
I'll give it back to you; or, if I keep it,
Will give you gold to buy you twenty such.

Prec. Why would you have this ring?

Vict. A traveller's fancy,
A whim, and nothing more. I would fain keep it

As a memento of the Gypsy camp
In Guadarrama, and the fortune-teller
Who sent me back to wed a widowed maid. 161

Pray, let me have the ring.

Prec. No, never! never!
I will not part with it, even when I die;

But bid my nurse fold my pale fingers thus,

That it may not fall from them. 'T is a token

Of a beloved friend, who is no more.

Vict. How? dead?

Prec. Yes; dead to me; and worse than dead.

He is estranged! And yet I keep this ring.

I will rise with it from my grave hereafter, 169

To prove to him that I was never false.

Vict. (*aside*). Be still, my swelling heart! one moment, still!

Why, 't is the folly of a love-sick girl.
Come, give it me, or I will say 't is mine,

And that you stole it.

Prec. Oh, you will not dare
To utter such a falsehood!

Vict. I not dare?
Look in my face, and say if there is
aught
I have not dared, I would not dare for
thee!

(She rushes into his arms.)

Prec. 'T is thou! 'T is thou! Yes;
yes; my heart's elected!
My dearest-dear Victorian! my soul's
heaven!
Where hast thou been so long? Why
didst thou leave me? 180

Vict. Ask me not now, my dearest
Preciosa.
Let me forget we ever have been
parted!

Prec. Hadst thou not come —

Vict. I pray thee, do not chide me!

Prec. I should have perished here
among these Gypsies.

Vict. Forgive me, sweet! for what
I made thee suffer.
Think'st thou this heart could feel a
moment's joy,
Thou being absent? Oh, believe it not!
Indeed, since that sad hour I have not
slept,
For thinking of the wrong I did to
thee!

Dost thou forgive me? Say, wilt
thou forgive me? 190

Prec. I have forgiven thee. Ere
those words of anger
Were in the book of Heaven writ
down against thee,
I had forgiven thee.

Vict. I'm the veriest fool
That walks the earth, to have believed
thee false.

It was the Count of Lara —

Prec. That bad man
Has worked me harm enough. Hast
thou not heard —

Vict. I have heard all. And yet
speak on, speak on!
Let me but hear thy voice, and I am
happy;
For every tone, like some sweet incan-
tation,
Calls up the buried past to plead for
me. 200

Speak, my beloved, speak into my
heart,
Whatever fills and agitates thine own.

(They walk aside.)

Hyp. All gentler quarrels in the
pastoral poets,
All passionate love-scenes in the best
romances,
All chaste embraces on the public
stage,
All soft adventures, which the liberal
stars
Have winked at, as the natural course
of things,
Have been surpassed here by my
friend, the student,
And this sweet Gypsy lass, fair Pre-
ciosa!

Prec. Señor Hypolito! I kiss your
hand. 210

Pray, shall I tell your fortune?

Hyp. Not to-night;
For, should you treat me as you did
Victorian,

And send me back to marry maids for-
lorn,
My wedding day would last from now
till Christmas.

Chispa (within). What ho! the
Gypsies, ho! Beltran Cruzado!
Halloo! halloo! halloo! halloo!
*(Enters booted, with a whip and lan-
tern.)*

Vict. What now?
Why such a fearful din? Hast thou
been robbed?

Chispa. Ay, robbed and murdered;
and good evening to you,
My worthy masters.

Vict. Speak; what brings thee here?

Chispa (to PRECIOSA). Good news
from Court; good news! Bel-
tran Cruzado, 220
The Count of the Calés, is not your
father,

But your true father has returned to
Spain
Laden with wealth. You are no more
a Gypsy.

Vict. Strange as a Moorish tale!

Chispa. And we have all
Been drinking at the tavern to your
health,
As wells drink in November, when it
rains.

Vict. Where is the gentleman?

Chispa. As the old song says,
His body is in Segovia,
His soul is in Madrid.

Prec. Is this a dream? Oh, if it be
a dream, 230
Let me sleep on, and do not wake me
yet!
Repeat thy story! Say I'm not de-
ceived!
Say that I do not dream! I am awake;
This is the Gypsy camp; this is Victo-
rian,
And this his friend, Hypolito! Speak!
speak!
Let me not wake and find it all a
dream!

Vict. It is a dream, sweet child! a
waking dream,
A blissful certainty, a vision bright
Of that rare happiness, which even on
earth

Heaven gives to those it loves. Now
art thou rich, 240
As thou wast ever beautiful and
good;
And I am now the beggar.

Prec. (*giving him her hand*). I have
still
A hand to give.

Chispa (*aside*). And I have two to
take.

I've heard my grandmother say, that
Heaven gives almonds
To those who have no teeth. That's
nuts to crack.

I've teeth to spare, but where shall I
find almonds?

Vict. What more of this strange
story?

Chispa. Nothing more.
Your friend, Don Carlos, is now at the
village

Showing to Pedro Crespo, the alcalde,
The proofs of what I tell you. The
old hag, 250

Who stole you in your childhood, has
confessed;

And probably they'll hang her for the
crime,

To make the celebration more com-
plete.

Vict. No; let it be a day of general
joy;
Fortune comes well to all, that comes
not late.

Now let us join Don Carlos.

Hyp. So farewell,
The student's wandering life! Sweet
serenades,

Sung under ladies' windows in the
night,
And all that makes vacation beauti-
ful!

To you, ye cloistered shades of Alcalá,
To you, ye radiant visions of romance,
Written in books, but here surpassed
by truth, 262
The Bachelor Hypolito returns,
And leaves the Gypsy with the Span-
ish Student.

SCENE VI. — *A pass in the Guadar-
rama mountains. Early morning.*
*A muleteer crosses the stage, sitting
sideways on his mule, and lighting a
paper cigar with flint and steel.*

SONG

If thou art sleeping, maiden,
Awake and open thy door,
'Tis the break of day, and we must away
O'er meadow, and mount, and moor.

Wait not to find thy slippers,
But come with thy naked feet;
We shall have to pass through the dewy
grass,
And waters wide and fleet.

(*Disappears down the pass. Enter a
Monk. A Shepherd appears on the
rocks above.*)

Monk. Ave Maria, gratia plena.
Olá! good man! 10

Shep. Olá!

Monk. Is this the road to Segovia?

Shep. It is, your reverence.

Monk. How far is it?

Shep. I do not know.

Monk. What is that yonder in the
valley?

Shep. San Ildefonso.

Monk. A long way to breakfast.

Shep. Ay, marry. 20

Monk. Are there robbers in these
mountains?

Shep. Yes, and worse than that.

Monk. What?

Shep. Wolves.

Monk. Santa Maria! Come with me
to San Ildefonso, and thou shalt be
well rewarded.

Shep. What wilt thou give me?

Monk. An Agnus Dei and my bene-
diction. 30

(*They disappear. A mounted Contra-
bandista passes, wrapped in his cloak,*

and a gun at his saddle-bow. He goes down the pass singing.)

SONG

Worn with speed is my good steed,
And I march me hurried, worried;
Onward, caballito mio,
With the white star in thy forehead!
Onward, for here comes the Ronda,
And I hear their rifles crack!
Ay, jaléo! Ay, ay, jaléo!
Ay, jaléo! They cross our track.

(Song dies away. Enter PRECIOSA, on horseback, attended by VICTORIAN, HYPOLITO, DON CARLOS, and CHIEPA, on foot and armed.)

Vict. And in the vale below,
Where yonder steeples flash like lifted
halberds,
San Ildefonso, from its noisy belfries,
Sends up a salutation to the morn,
As if an army smote their brazen
shields,
And shouted victory!

Prec. And which way lies
Segovia?

Vict. At a great distance yonder. Dost thou not see it?

Prec. No. I do not see it.

Vict. The merest flaw that dents the
horizon's edge,
There, yonder!

Death of Bartolomé

Vict. This is the highest point.
Here let us rest.
See, Preciosa, see how all about us
Kneeling, like hooded friars, the misty
mountains
Receive the benediction of the sun!
O glorious sight!

Prec. Most beautiful indeed!

Hyp. Most wonderful!

Hyp. 'T is a notable old town
Boasting an ancient Roman aqueduct
And an Alcázar, builded by the Moors
Wherein, you may remember, poor
Gil Blas
Was fed on *Pan del Rey*. Oh, many
a time
Out of its grated windows have I
looked

Hundreds of feet plumb down to the
Eresma,
That, like a serpent through the valley
creeping, 60
Glides at its foot.

Prec. Oh yes! I see it now,
Yet rather with my heart than with
mine eyes,
So faint it is. And all my thoughts
sail thither,
Freighted with prayers and hopes, and
forward urged
Against all stress of accident, as in
The Eastern Tale, against the wind
and tide
Great ships were drawn to the Mag-
netic Mountains,
And there were wrecked, and perished
in the sea! (*She weeps.*)

Vict. O gentle spirit! Thou didst
bear unmoved 69
Blasts of adversity and frosts of
fate!
But the first ray of sunshine that falls
on thee
Melts thee to tears! Oh, let thy weary
heart
Lean upon mine! and it shall faint no
more,
Nor thirst, nor hunger; but be com-
forted
And filled with my affection.

Prec. Stay no longer!
My father waits. Methinks I see him
there,
Now looking from the window, and
now watching

Each sound of wheels or footfall in
the street,
And saying, "Hark! she comes!" O
father! father! 79

(*They descend the pass. CHISPA remains
behind.*)

Chispa. I have a father, too, but he
is a dead one. Alas and alack-a-day!
Poor was I born, and poor do I re-
main. I neither win nor lose. Thus
I wag through the world, half the
time on foot, and the other half walk-
ing; and always as merry as a thun-
der-storm in the night. And so we
plough along, as the fly said to the ox.
Who knows what may happen? Pa-
tience, and shuffle the cards! I am
not yet so bald that you can see my
brains; and perhaps, after all, I shall
some day go to Rome, and come back
Saint Peter. Benedicite! [*Exit.*

(*A pause. Then enter BARTOLOMÉ
wildly, as if in pursuit, with a car-
bine, in his hand.*)

Bart. They passed this way. I
hear their horses' hoofs!
Yonder I see them! Come, sweet ca-
ramillo,
This serenade shall be the Gypsy's
last!

(*Fires down the pass.*)
Ha! ha! Well whistled, my sweet
caramillo!
Well whistled! — I have missed her!
— O my God!
(*The shot is returned. BARTOLOMÉ
falls.*)

"Stands the belfry old and brown"

THE BELFRY OF BRUGES

AND OTHER POEMS

THE BELFRY OF BRUGES

CARILLON

In the ancient town of Bruges,
In the quaint old Flemish city,
As the evening shades descended,
Low and loud and sweetly blended,
Low at times and loud at times,
And changing like a poet's rhymes,
Rang the beautiful wild chimes
From the Belfry in the market
Of the ancient town of Bruges.

Then, with deep sonorous clangor 10
Calmly answering their sweet anger,
When the wrangling bells had ended,

Slowly struck the clock eleven,
And, from out the silent heaven,
Silence on the town descended.
Silence, silence everywhere,
On the earth and in the air,
Save that footsteps here and there
Of some burgher home returning,
By the street lamps faintly burn-
ing, 20

For a moment woke the echoes
Of the ancient town of Bruges.

But amid my broken slumbers
Still I heard those magic numbers,
As they loud proclaimed the flight
And stolen marches of the night;

Till their chimes in sweet collision
 Mingled with each wandering vision,
 Mingled with the fortune-telling
 Gypsy-bands of dreams and fancies, 30
 Which amid the waste expanses
 Of the silent land of trances
 Have their solitary dwelling;
 All else seemed asleep in Bruges,
 In the quaint old Flemish city.

And I thought how like these chimes
 Are the poet's airy rhymes,
 All his rhymes and roundelays,
 His conceits, and songs, and ditties,
 From the belfry of his brain, 40
 Scattered downward, though in vain,
 On the roofs and stones of cities!
 For by night the drowsy ear
 Under its curtains cannot hear,
 And by day men go their ways,
 Hearing the music as they pass,
 But deeming it no more, alas!
 Than the hollow sound of brass.

Yet perchance a sleepless wight,
 Lodging at some humble inn 50
 In the narrow lanes of life,
 When the dusk and hush of night
 Shut out the incessant din
 Of daylight and its toil and strife,
 May listen with a calm delight
 To the poet's melodies,
 'Till he hears, or dreams he hears,
 Intermingled with the song,
 Thoughts that he has cherished long;
 Hears amid the chime and singing 60
 The bells of his own village ringing,
 And wakes, and finds his slumberous
 eyes
 Wet with most delicious tears.

Thus dreamed I, as by night I lay
 In Bruges, at the Fleur-de-Blé,
 Listening with a wild delight
 To the chimes that, through the night,
 Rang their changes from the Belfry
 Of that quaint old Flemish city.

THE BELFRY OF BRUGES

In the market-place of Bruges stands
 the belfry old and brown; 70
 Thrice consumed and thrice rebuilt,
 still it watches o'er the town.

As the summer morn was breaking,
 on that lofty tower I stood,
 And the world threw off the darkness,
 like the weeds of widowhood.

Thick with towns and hamlets studded,
 and with streams and vapors
 gray,
 Like a shield embossed with silver,
 round and vast the landscape
 lay.

At my feet the city slumbered. From
 its chimneys, here and there,
 Wreaths of snow-white smoke, as-
 cending, vanished, ghost-like,
 into air.

Not a sound rose from the city at that
 early morning hour,
 But I heard a heart of iron beating in
 the ancient tower.

From their nests beneath the rafters
 sang the swallows wild and
 high; 80
 And the world, beneath me sleeping,
 seemed more distant than the
 sky.

Then most musical and solemn, bring-
 ing back the olden times,
 With their strange, unearthly changes
 rang the melancholy chimes,

Like the psalms from some old cloister,
 when the nuns sing in the choir;
 And the great bell tolled among them,
 like the chanting of a friar.

Visions of the days departed, shadowy
 phantoms filled my brain;
 They who live in history only seemed
 to walk the earth again;

All the Foresters of Flanders, —
 mighty Baldwin Bras de Fer,
 Lyderick du Bucq and Cressy, Philip,
 Guy de Dampierre.

I beheld the pageants splendid that
 adorned those days of old; 90
 Stately dames, like queens attended,
 knights who bore the Fleece of
 Gold;

Lombard and Venetian merchants with
deep-laden argosies ;
Ministers from twenty nations ; more
than royal pomp and ease.

I beheld proud Maximilian, kneeling
humbly on the ground ;
I beheld the gentle Mary, hunting with
her hawk and hound ;

And her lighted bridal-chamber, where
a duke slept with the queen,
And the armed guard around them,
and the sword unsheathed be-
tween.

I beheld the Flemish weavers, with
Namur and Juliers bold,
Marching homeward from the bloody
battle of the Spurs of Gold ;

Saw the fight at Minnewater, saw the
White Hoods moving west 100
Saw great Artevelde victorious scale
the Golden Dragon's nest.

And again the whiskered Spaniard all
the land with terror smote ;
And again the wild alarm sounded
from the tocsin's throat ;

Till the bell of Ghent responded o'er
lagoon and dike of sand,
"I am Roland! I am Roland! there is
victory in the land!"

Then the sound of drums aroused me.
The awakened city's roar
Chased the phantoms I had summoned
back into their graves once
more.

Hours had passed away like minutes ;
and, before I was aware,
Lo! the shadow of the belfry crossed
the sun-illuminated square.

A GLEAM OF SUNSHINE

THIS is the place. Stand still, my
steed,
Let me review the scene,
And summon from the shadowy Past
The forms that once have been.

The Past and Present here unite
Beneath Time's flowing tide,
Like footprints hidden by a brook,
But seen on either side.

Here runs the highway to the town ;
There the green lane descends, 10
Through which I walked to church
with thee,
O gentlest of my friends !

The shadow of the linden-trees
Lay moving on the grass ;
Between them and the moving boughs,
A shadow, thou didst pass.

Thy dress was like the lilies,
And thy heart as pure as they :
One of God's holy messengers
Did walk with me that day. 20

I saw the branches of the trees
Bend down thy touch to meet,
The clover-blossoms in the grass
Rise up to kiss thy feet.

"Sleep, sleep to-day, tormenting
cares,
Of earth and folly born!"
Solemnly sang the village choir
On that sweet Sabbath morn.

Through the closed blinds the golden
sun
Poured in a dusty beam, 30
Like the celestial ladder seen
By Jacob in his dream.

And ever and anon, the wind
Sweet-scented with the hay,
Turned o'er the hymn-book's fluttering
leaves
That on the window lay.

Long was the good man's sermon,
Yet it seemed not so to me ;
For he spake of Ruth the beautiful,
And still I thought of thee. 40

Long was the prayer he uttered,
Yet it seemed not so to me ;
For in my heart I prayed with him,
And still I thought of thee.

But now, alas! the place seems
changed ;

Thou art no longer here :
Part of the sunshine of the scene
With thee did disappear.

Though thoughts, deep-rooted in my
heart,

Like pine-trees dark and high, ⁵⁰
Subdue the light of noon, and breathe
A low and ceaseless sigh ;

This memory brightens o'er the past,
As when the sun, concealed
Behind some cloud that near us
hangs,
Shines on a distant field.

THE ARSENAL AT SPRING-FIELD

THIS is the Arsenal. From floor to
ceiling,

Like a huge organ, rise the burnished
arms ;
But from their silent pipes no anthem
pealing
Startles the villages with strange
alarms.

Ah! what a sound will rise, how wild
and dreary,

When the death-angel touches those
swift keys!

What loud lament and dismal Mis-
erere

Will mingle with their awful sym-
phonies !

I hear even now the infinite fierce
chorus,

The cries of agony, the endless
groan, ¹⁰

Which, through the ages that have
gone before us,

In long reverberations reach our
own.

On helm and harness rings the Saxon
hammer,

Through Cimbric forest roars the
Norseman's song,

And loud, amid the universal clamor,
O'er distant deserts sounds the Tartar
gong.

I hear the Florentine, who from his
palace

Wheels out his battle-bell with
dreadful din,

And Aztec priests upon their teocallis
Beat the wild war-drums made of
serpent's skin ; ²⁰

The tumult of each sacked and burn-
ing village ;

The shout that every prayer for
mercy drowns ;

The soldiers' revels in the midst of
pillage ;

The wail of famine in beleaguered
towns ;

The bursting shell, the gateway
wrenched asunder,

The rattling musketry, the clashing
blade ;

And ever and anon, in tones of thun-
der

The diapason of the cannonade.

Is it, O man, with such discordant
noises,

With such accursed instruments as
these, ³⁰

Thou drownest Nature's sweet and
kindly voices,

And jarrest the celestial harmo-
nies?

Were half the power that fills the
world with terror,

Were half the wealth bestowed on
camps and courts,

Given to redeem the human mind
from error,

There were no need of arsenals or
forts :

The warrior's name would be a name
abhorred !

And every nation, that should lift
again

Its hand against a brother, on its fore-
head

Would wear forevermore the curse
of Cain ! ⁴⁰

Down the dark future, through long
generations,

The echoing sounds grow fainter
and then cease ;

And like a bell, with solemn, sweet vibrations,
I hear once more the voice of Christ say, "Peace!"

Peace! and no longer from its brazen portals
The blast of War's great organ shakes the skies!
But beautiful as songs of the immortals,
The holy melodies of love arise.

NUREMBERG

In the valley of the Pegnitz, where across broad meadow-lands
Rise the blue Franconian mountains, Nuremberg, the ancient, stands.

Quaint old town of toil and traffic, quaint old town of art and song,
Memories haunt thy pointed gables, like the rooks that round them throng:

Memories of the Middle Ages, when the emperors, rough and bold,
Had their dwelling in thy castle, time-defying, centuries old;

And thy brave and thrifty burghers boasted, in their uncouth rhyme,
That their great imperial city stretched its hand through every clime.

In the court-yard of the castle, bound with many an iron band,
Stands the mighty linden planted by Queen Cunigunde's hand; 10

On the square the oriel window, where in old heroic days
Sat the poet Melchior singing Kaiser Maximilian's praise.

Everywhere I see around me rise the wondrous world of Art:
Fountains wrought with richest sculpture standing in the common mart;

And above cathedral doorways saints and bishops carved in stone,

By a former age commissioned as apostles to our own.

In the church of sainted Sebald sleeps enshrined his holy dust,
And in bronze the Twelve Apostles guard from age to age their trust;

In the church of sainted Lawrence stands a pyx of sculpture rare,
Like the foamy sheaf of fountains, rising through the painted air. 20

Here, when Art was still religion, with a simple, reverent heart,
Lived and labored Albrecht Dürer, the Evangelist of Art;

Hence in silence and in sorrow, toiling still with busy hand,
Like an emigrant he wandered, seeking for the Better Land.

Emigravit is the inscription on the tombstone where he lies;
Dead he is not, but departed, — for the artist never dies.

Fairer seems the ancient city, and the sunshine seems more fair,
That he once has trod its pavement, that he once has breathed its air!

Through these streets so broad and stately, these obscure and dismal lanes,
Walked of yore the Mastersingers, chanting rude poetic strains. 30

From remote and sunless suburbs came they to the friendly guild,
Building nests in Fame's great temple, as in spouts the swallows build.

As the weaver plied the shuttle, wove he too the mystic rhyme,
And the smith his iron measures hammered to the anvil's chime;

Thanking God, whose boundless wisdom makes the flowers of poesy bloom
In the forge's dust and cinders, in the tissues of the loom.

Here Hans Sachs, the cobbler-poet,
laureate of the gentle craft,
Wise of the Twelve Wise Masters,
in huge folios sang and laughed.

But his house is now an ale-house,
with a nicely sanded floor,
And a garland in the window, and his
face above the door; 40

Vanished is the ancient splendor, and
before my dreamy eye
Wave these mingled shapes and fig-
ures, like a faded tapestry.

Not thy Councils, not thy Kaisers,
win for thee the world's regard;
But thy painter, Albrecht Dürer, and
Hans Sachs thy cobbler bard.

"In the church of sainted Lawrence stands a pyx of sculpture rare"

Painted by some humble artist, as in
Adam Puschman's song,
A stolid man gray and dove-like, with
his great beard white and long.

And at night the swart mechanic
comes to drown his cark and
care,
Quaffing ale from pewter tankards, in
the master's antique chair.

Thus, O Nuremberg, a wanderer from
a region far away,
As he paced thy streets and court-
yards, sang in thought his care-
less lay: 50

Gathering from the pavement's crev-
ice, as a floweret of the soil,
The nobility of labor, — the long pedi-
gres of toil.

THE NORMAN BARON

Dans les moments de la vie où la réflexion devient plus calme et plus profonde, où l'intérêt et l'avarice parlent moins haut que la raison, dans les instants de chagrin domestique, de maladie, et de péril de mort, les nobles se repentirent de posséder des serfs, comme d'une chose peu agréable à Dieu, qui avait créé tous les hommes à son image. — *Conquête de l'Angleterre.*

In his chamber, weak and dying,
Was the Norman baron lying;
Loud, without, the tempest thundered,
And the castle-turret shook.

In this fight was Death the gainer,
Spite of vassal and retainer,
And the lands his sires had plundered,
Written in the Doomsday Book.

By his bed a monk was seated,
Who in humble voice repeated 10
Many a prayer and paternoster,
From the missal on his knee;

And, amid the tempest pealing,
Sounds of bells came faintly stealing,
Bells, that from the neighboring
kloster
Rang for the Nativity.

In the hall, the serf and vassal
Held, that night, their Christmas
wassail;
Many a carol, old and saintly,
Sang the minstrels and the 20
waits;

And so loud these Saxon gleemen
Sang to slaves the songs of freemen,
That the storm was heard but faintly,
Knocking at the castle-gates.

Till at length the lays they chanted
Reached the chamber terror-haunted,
Where the monk, with accents holy,
Whispered at the baron's ear.

Tears upon his eyelids glistened,
As he paused awhile and listened, 30
And the dying baron slowly
Turned his weary head to hear.

"Wassail for the kingly stranger
Born and cradled in a manger!

King, like David, priest, like Aaron,
Christ is born to set us free!"

And the lightning showed the sainted
Figures on the casement painted,
And exclaimed the shuddering baron,
"Miserere, Domine!" 40

In that hour of deep contrition
He beheld, with clearer vision,
Through all outward show and fashion,
Justice, the Avenger, rise.

All the pomp of earth had vanished,
Falsehood and deceit were banished,
Reason spake more loud than passion,
And the truth wore no disguise.

Every vassal of his banner,
Every serf born to his manor, 50
All those wronged and wretched creatures,
By his hand were freed again.

And, as on the sacred missal
He recorded their dismissal,
Death relaxed his iron features,
And the monk replied, "Amen!"

Many centuries have been numbered
Since in death the baron slumbered
By the convent's sculptured portal,
Mingling with the common dust:

But the good deed, through the ages
Living in historic pages, 62
Brighter grows and gleams immortal,
Unconsumed by moth or rust.

RAIN IN SUMMER

How beautiful is the rain!
After the dust and heat,
In the broad and fiery street,
In the narrow lane,
How beautiful is the rain!

How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs!
How it gushes and struggles out
From the throat of the overflowing
spout!

Across the window-pane 10
It pours and pours ;
And swift and wide,
With a muddy tide,
Like a river down the gutter roars
The rain, the welcome rain!

The sick man from his chamber looks
At the twisted brooks ;
He can feel the cool
Breath of each little pool ;
His fevered brain 20
Grows calm again,
And he breathes a blessing on the
rain.

From the neighboring school
Come the boys,
With more than their wonted noise
And commotion ;
And down the wet streets
Sail their mimic fleets,
Till the treacherous pool
Ingulfs them in its whirling 30
And turbulent ocean.

In the country, on every side,
Where far and wide,
Like a leopard's tawny and spotted
hide,
Stretches the plain,
To the dry grass and the drier grain
How welcome is the rain !

In the furrowed land
The toilsome and patient oxen stand ;
Lifting the yoke-encumbered head, 40
With their dilated nostrils spread,
They silently inhale
The clover-scented gale,
And the vapors that arise
From the well-watered and smoking
soil.
For this rest in the furrow after toil
Their large and lustrous eyes
Seem to thank the Lord,
More than man's spoken word.

Near at hand, 50
From under the sheltering trees,
The farmer sees
His pastures, and his fields of grain,
As they bend their tops
To the numberless beating drops
Of the incessant rain.
He counts it as no sin

That he sees therein
Only his own thrift and gain.

These, and far more than these, 60
The Poet sees!
He can behold
Aquarius old
Walking the fenceless fields of air ;
And from each ample fold
Of the clouds about him rolled
Scattering everywhere
The showery rain,
As the farmer scatters his grain.

He can behold 70
Things manifold
That have not yet been wholly told, —
Have not been wholly sung nor said.
For his thought, that never stops,
Follows the water-drops
Down to the graves of the dead,
Down through chasms and gulfs pro-
found,
To the dreary fountain-head
Of lakes and rivers under ground ;
And sees them, when the rain is 80
done,
On the bridge of colors seven
Climbing up once more to heaven,
Opposite the setting sun.

Thus the Seer,
With vision clear,
Sees forms appear and disappear,
In the perpetual round of strange,
Mysterious change
From birth to death, from death to
birth,
From earth to heaven, from heaven to 90
earth ;
Till glimpses more sublime
Of things unseen before,
Unto his wondering eyes reveal
The Universe, as an immeasurable
wheel
Turning forevermore
In the rapid and rushing river of Time.

TO A CHILD

DEAR child! how radiant on thy mo-
ther's knee,
With merry-making eyes and jocund
smiles,
Thou gazest at the painted tiles,

Whose figures grace,
 With many a grotesque form and face,
 The ancient chimney of thy nursery !
 The lady with the gay macaw,
 The dancing girl, the grave bashaw
 With bearded lip and chin ;
 And, leaning idly o'er his gate, 10
 Beneath the imperial fan of state,
 The Chinese mandarin.

With what a look of proud command
 Thou shakest in thy little hand
 The coral rattle with its silver bells,
 Making a merry tune !
 Thousands of years in Indian seas
 That coral grew, by slow degrees,
 Until some deadly and wild monsoon
 Dashed it on Coromandel's sand ! 20
 Those silver bells
 Reposed of yore,
 As shapeless ore,
 Far down in the deep-sunken wells
 Of darksome mines,
 In some obscure and sunless place,
 Beneath huge Chimborazo's base,
 Or Potosí's o'erhanging pines !
 And thus for thee, O little child,
 Through many a danger and escape, 30
 The tall ships passed the stormy cape ;
 For thee in foreign lands remote,
 Beneath a burning, tropic clime,
 The Indian peasant, chasing the wild
 goat,
 Himself as swift and wild,
 In falling, clutched the frail arbut,.
 The fibres of whose shallow root,
 Uplifted from the soil, betrayed
 The silver veins beneath it laid,
 The buried treasures of the miser,
 Time. 40

But, lo ! thy door is left ajar !
 Thou hearest footsteps from afar ;
 And, at the sound,
 Thou turnest round
 With quick and questioning eyes,
 Like one, who, in a foreign land,
 Beholds on every hand
 Some source of wonder and surprise !
 And, restlessly, impatiently,
 Thou strivest, strugglest, to be free. 50

The four walls of thy nursery
 Are now like prison walls to thee.
 No more thy mother's smiles,
 No more the painted tiles,

Delight thee, nor the playthings on
 the floor,
 That won thy little, beating heart be-
 fore ;
 Thou strugglest for the open door.

Through these once solitary halls
 Thy pattering footstep falls.
 The sound of thy merry voice 60
 Makes the old walls
 Jubilant, and they rejoice
 With the joy of thy young heart,
 O'er the light of whose gladness
 No shadows of sadness
 From the sombre background of mem-
 ory start.

Once, ah, once, within these walls,
 One whom memory oft recalls,
 The Father of his Country, dwelt.
 And yonder meadows broad and 70
 damp
 The fires of the besieging camp
 Encircled with a burning belt.
 Up and down these echoing stairs,
 Heavy with the weight of cares,
 Sounded his majestic tread ;
 Yes, within this very room
 Sat he in those hours of gloom,
 Weary both in heart and head.

But what are these grave thoughts to
 thee ?
 Out, out ! into the open air ! 80
 Thy only dream is liberty,
 Thou carest little how or where.
 I see thee eager at thy play,
 Now shouting to the apples on the
 tree,
 With cheeks as round and red as
 they ;
 And now among the yellow stalks,
 Among the flowering shrubs and
 plants,
 As restless as the bee.
 Along the garden walks,
 The tracks of thy small carriage-
 wheels I trace ; 90
 And see at every turn how they efface
 Whole villages of sand-roofed tents,
 That rise like golden domes
 Above the cavernous and secret homes
 Of wandering and nomadic tribes of
 ants.
 Ah, cruel little Tamerlane,
 Who, with thy dreadful reign,

Dost persecute and overwhelm
These hapless Troglodytes of thy
realm!

What! tired already! with those sup-
pliant looks, 100
And voice more beautiful than a
poet's books
Or murmuring sound of water as it
flows,
Thou comest back to parley with re-
pose!

This rustic seat in the old apple-tree,
With its o'erhanging golden canopy
Of leaves illuminate with autumnal
hues,

And shining with the argent light of
dews,
Shall for a season be our place of rest.
Beneath us, like an oriole's pendent
nest,
From which the laughing birds have
taken wing, 110
By thee abandoned, hangs thy vacant
swing.

Dream-like the waters of the river
gleam;
A sailless vessel drops adown the
stream,
And like it, to a sea as wide and
deep,
Thou driftest gently down the tides of
sleep.

O child! O new-born denizen
Of life's great city! on thy head
The glory of the morn is shed,
Like a celestial benison!
Here at the portal thou dost stand, 120
And with thy little hand
Thou openest the mysterious gate
Into the future's undiscovered land.
I see its valves expand,
As at the touch of Fate!
Into those realms of love and hate,
Into that darkness blank and drear,
By some prophetic feeling taught,
I launch the bold, adventurous thought,
Freighted with hope and fear; 130
As upon subterranean streams,
In caverns unexplored and dark,
Men sometimes launch a fragile bark,
Laden with flickering fire,
And watch its swift-receding beams,
Until at length they disappear,
And in the distant dark expire.

By what astrology of fear or hope
Dare I to cast thy horoscope!
Like the new moon thy life appears; 140
A little strip of silver light,
And widening outward into night
The shadowy disk of future years;
And yet upon its outer rim,
A luminous circle, faint and dim,
And scarcely visible to us here,
Rounds and completes the perfect
sphere;

A prophecy and intimation,
A pale and feeble adumbration,
Of the great world of light, that lies 150
Behind all human destinies.

Ah! if thy fate, with anguish fraught,
Should be to wet the dusty soil
With the hot tears and sweat of toil, —
To struggle with imperious thought,
Until the overburdened brain,
Weary with labor, faint with pain,
Like a jarred pendulum, retain
Only its motion, not its power, —
Remember, in that perilous hour, 160
When most afflicted and oppressed,
From labor there shall come forth rest.

And if a more auspicious fate
On thy advancing steps await,
Still let it ever be thy pride
To linger by the laborer's side;
With words of sympathy or song
To cheer the dreary march along
Of the great army of the poor,
O'er desert sand, o'er dangerous
moor. 170

Nor to thyself the task shall be
Without reward; for thou shalt learn
The wisdom early to discern
True beauty in utility;
As great Pythagoras of yore,
Standing beside the blacksmith's door,
And hearing the hammers, as they
smote
The anvils with a different note,
Stole from the varying tones, that hung
Vibrant on every iron tongue, 180
The secret of the sounding wire,
And formed the seven-chorded lyre.

Enough! I will not play the Seer;
I will no longer strive to ope
The mystic volume, where appear
The herald Hope, forerunning Fear,
And Fear, the pursuivant of Hope.

Thy destiny remains untold;
 For, like Acastes' shaft of old,
 The swift thought kindles as it flies, 190
 And burns to ashes in the skies.

THE OCCULTATION OF ORION

I saw, as in a dream sublime,
 The balance in the hand of Time.
 O'er East and West its beam impended;
 And Day, with all its hours of light,
 Was slowly sinking out of sight,
 While, opposite, the scale of Night
 Silently with the stars ascended.

Where, chanting through his beard of
 snows,
 Majestic, mournful, Saturn goes,
 And down the sunless realms of space
 Reverberates the thunder of his bass.

Beneath the sky's triumphal arch
 This music sounded like a march,
 And with its chorus seemed to be
 Preluding some great tragedy.
 Sirius was rising in the east;
 And, slow ascending one by one,
 The kindling constellations shone.
 Begirt with many a blazing star,
 Stood the great giant Algebar,

30

"Forevermore, forevermore,
 The reign of violence is o'er!"

Like the astrologers of eld,
 In that bright vision I beheld
 Greater and deeper mysteries. 20
 I saw, with its celestial keys,
 Its chords of air, its frets of fire,
 The Samian's great Æolian lyre,
 Rising through all its sevenfold bars,
 From earth unto the fixed stars.
 And through the dewy atmosphere,
 Not only could I see, but hear,
 Its wondrous and harmonious strings,
 In sweet vibration, sphere by sphere,
 From Dian's circle light and near, 20
 Onward to vaster and wider rings,

Orion, hunter of the beast!
 His sword hung gleaming by his side.
 And, on his arm, the lion's hide
 Scattered across the midnight air
 The golden radiance of its hair.

The moon was pallid, but not faint; 40
 And beautiful as some fair saint,
 Serenely moving on her way
 In hours of trial and dismay.
 As if she heard the voice of God,
 Unharmed with naked feet she trod
 Upon the hot and burning stars,
 As on the glowing coals and bars.

That were to prove her strength and
try
Her holiness and her purity.

Thus moving on, with silent pace, 50
And triumph in her sweet, pale face,
She reached the station of Orion.
Aghast he stood in strange alarm!
And suddenly from his outstretched
arm

Down fell the red skin of the lion
Into the river at his feet.
His mighty club no longer beat
The forehead of the bull; but he
Reeled as of yore beside the sea,
When, blinded by CEnopion, 60
He sought the blacksmith at his forge,
And, climbing up the mountain gorge,
Fixed his blank eyes upon the sun.

Then, through the silence overhead,
An angel with a trumpet said,
"Forevermore, forevermore,
The reign of violence is o'er!"
And, like an instrument that flings
Its music on another's strings,
The trumpet of the angel cast 70
Upon the heavenly lyre its blast,
And on from sphere to sphere the
words
Reëchoed down the burning chords, —
"Forevermore, forevermore,
The reign of violence is o'er!"

THE BRIDGE

I stood on the bridge at midnight,
As the clocks were striking the hour,
And the moon rose o'er the city,
Behind the dark church-tower.

I saw her bright reflection
In the waters under me,
Like a golden goblet falling
And sinking into the sea.

And far in the hazy distance
Of that lovely night in June, 10
The blaze of the flaming furnace
Gleamed redder than the moon.

Among the long, black rafters
The wavering shadows lay,
And the current that came from the
ocean
Seemed to lift and bear them away;

As, sweeping and eddying through
them,

Rose the belated tide,
And, streaming into the moonlight,
The seaweed floated wide. 20

And like those waters rushing
Among the wooden piers,
A flood of thoughts came o'er me
That filled my eyes with tears.

How often, oh, how often,
In the days that had gone by,
I had stood on that bridge at midnight
And gazed on that wave and sky!

How often, oh, how often,
I had wished that the ebbing tide 30
Would bear me away on its bosom
O'er the ocean wild and wide!

For my heart was hot and restless,
And my life was full of care,
And the burden laid upon me
Seemed greater than I could bear.

But now it has fallen from me,
It is buried in the sea;
And only the sorrow of others
Throws its shadow over me. 40

Yet whenever I cross the river
On its bridge with wooden piers,
Like the odor of brine from the
ocean
Comes the thought of other years.

And I think how many thousands
Of care-encumbered men,
Each bearing his burden of sorrow,
Have crossed the bridge since then.

I see the long procession
Still passing to and fro, 50
The young heart hot and restless,
And the old subdued and slow!

And forever and forever,
As long as the river flows,
As long as the heart has passions,
As long as life has woes;

The moon and its broken reflection
And its shadows shall appear,
As the symbol of love in heaven,
And its wavering image here. 60

TO THE DRIVING CLOUD

Gloomy and dark art thou, O chief of
the mighty Omahas ;
Gloomy and dark as the driving cloud,
whose name thou hast taken !
Wrapped in thy scarlet blanket, I see
thee stalk through the city's
Narrow and populous streets, as once
by the margin of rivers
Stalked those birds unknown, that
have left us only their foot-
prints.
What, in a few short years, will re-
main of thy race but the foot-
prints ?

How canst thou walk these streets,
who hast trod the green turf of
the prairies ?
How canst thou breathe this air, who
hast breathed the sweet air of
the mountains ?
Ah ! 't is in vain that with lordly
looks of disdain thou dost chal-
lenge
Looks of disdain in return, and ques-
tion these walls and these pave-
ments,
Claiming the soil for thy hunting-
grounds, while down-trodden
millions
Starve in the garrets of Europe, and
cry from its caverns that they,
too,
Have been created heirs of the earth,
and claim its division !

Back, then, back to thy woods in the
regions west of the Wabash !
There as a monarch thou reignest. In
autumn the leaves of the maple
Pave the floors of thy palace-halls with
gold, and in summer
Pine-trees waft through its chambers
the odorous breath of their
branches.
There thou art strong and great, a
hero, a tamer of horses !
There thou chasest the stately stag on
the banks of the Elkhorn,
Or by the roar of the Running-Water,
or where the Omaha
Calls thee, and leaps through the wild
ravine like a brave of the Black-
feet !

Hark ! what murmurs arise from the
heart of those mountainous des-
erts ?
Is it the cry of the Foxes and Crows,
or the mighty Behemoth,
Who, unharmed, on his tusks once
caught the bolts of the thunder,
And now lurks in his lair to destroy
the race of the red man ?
Far more fatal to thee and thy race
than the Crows and the Foxes,
Far more fatal to thee and thy race
than the tread of Behemoth,
Lo ! the big thunder-canoe, that stead-
ily breasts the Missouri's
Merciless current ! and yonder, afar on
the prairies, the camp-fires
Gleam through the night ; and the
cloud of dust in the gray of the
daybreak
Marks not the buffalo's track, nor the
Mandan's dexterous horse-race ;
It is a caravan, whitening the desert
where dwell the Camanches !
Ha ! how the breath of these Saxons
and Celts, like the blast of the
east-wind,
Drifts evermore to the west the scanty
smokes of thy wigwams !

SONGS

THE DAY IS DONE

THE day is done, and the darkness
Falls from the wings of Night,
As a feather is wafted downward
From an eagle in his flight.

I see the lights of the village
Gleam through the rain and the
mist,
And a feeling of sadness comes o'er
me
That my soul cannot resist :

A feeling of sadness and longing,
That is not akin to pain,
And resembles sorrow only
As the mist resembles the rain.

Come, read to me some poem,
Some simple and heartfelt lay,
That shall soothe this restless feeling,
And banish the thoughts of day.

Not from the grand old masters,
 Not from the bards sublime,
 Whose distant footsteps echo
 Through the corridors of Time. 20

For, like strains of martial music,
 Their mighty thoughts suggest
 Life's endless toil and endeavor;
 And to-night I long for rest.

Read from some humbler poet,
 Whose songs gushed from his heart,
 As showers from the clouds of summer,
 Or tears from the eyelids start;

Who, through long days of labor,
 And nights devoid of ease, 30
 Still heard in his soul the music
 Of wonderful melodies.

Such songs have power to quiet
 The restless pulse of care,
 And come like the benediction
 That follows after prayer.

Then read from the treasured volume
 The poem of thy choice,
 And lend to the rhyme of the poet
 The beauty of thy voice. 40

And the night shall be filled with
 music,
 And the cares, that infest the day,
 Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs,
 And as silently steal away.

AFTERNOON IN FEBRUARY

THE day is ending,
 The night is descending;
 The marsh is frozen,
 The river dead.

Through clouds like ashes
 The red sun flashes
 On village windows
 That glimmer red.

The snow recommences;
 The buried fences
 Mark no longer
 The road o'er the plain;

While through the meadows,
 Like fearful shadows,

Slowly passes
 A funeral train.

The bell is pealing,
 And every feeling
 Within me responds
 To the dismal knell;

Shadows are trailing,
 My heart is bewailing
 And tolling within
 Like a funeral bell.

TO AN OLD DANISH SONG BOOK

WELCOME, my old friend,
 Welcome to a foreign fireside,
 While the sullen gales of autumn
 Shake the windows.

The ungrateful world
 Has, it seems, dealt harshly with thee,
 Since, beneath the skies of Denmark,
 First I met thee.

There are marks of age,
 There are thumb-marks on thy margin,
 Made by hands that clasped thee
 rudely, 15
 At the alehouse.

Soiled and dull thou art;
 Yellow are thy time-worn pages,
 As the russet, rain-molested
 Leaves of autumn.

Thou art stained with wine
 Scattered from hilarious goblets,
 As the leaves with the libations
 Of Olympus. 20

Yet dost thou recall
 Days departed, half-forgotten,
 When in dreamy youth I wandered
 By the Baltic,—

When I paused to hear
 The old ballad of King Christian
 Shouted from suburban taverns
 In the twilight.

Thou recallest bards,
 Who, in solitary chambers, 30
 And with hearts by passion wasted,
 Wrote thy pages.

Thou recallest homes
Where thy songs of love and friend-
ship
Made the gloomy Northern winter
Bright as summer.

Once some ancient Scald,
In his bleak, ancestral Iceland,
Chanted staves of these old ballads
To the Vikings. 40

Once in Elsinore,
At the court of old King Hamlet,
Yorick and his boon companions
Sang these ditties.

Once Prince Frederick's Guard
Sang them in their smoky barracks;—
Suddenly the English cannon
Joined the chorus!

Peasants in the field,
Sailors on the roaring ocean, 50
Students, tradesmen, pale mechanics,
All have sung them.

Thou hast been their friend;
They, alas! have left thee friend-
less!
Yet at least by one warm fireside
Art thou welcome.

And, as swallows build
In these wide, old-fashioned chimneys,
So thy twittering song shall nestle
In my bosom, — 60

Quiet, close, and warm,
Sheltered from all molestation,
And recalling by their voices
Youth and travel.

WALTER VON DER VOGEL- WEID

VOGELWEID the Minnesinger,
When he left this world of ours,
Laid his body in the cloister,
Under Würtzburg's minster towers.

And he gave the monks his treasures,
Gave them all with this behest:
They should feed the birds at noon-
tide
Daily on his place of rest;

Saying, "From these wandering min-
strels
I have learned the art of song; 10
Let me now repay the lessons
They have taught so well and long."

Thus the bard of love departed;
And, fulfilling his desire,
On his tomb the birds were feasted
By the children of the choir.

Day by day, o'er tower and turret,
In foul weather and in fair,
Day by day, in vaster numbers,
Flocked the poets of the air. 20

On the tree whose heavy branches
Overshadowed all the place,
On the pavement, on the tombstone,
On the poet's sculptured face,

On the cross-bars of each window,
On the lintel of each door,
They renewed the War of Wartburg,
Which the bard had fought before.

There they sang their merry carols,
Sang their lauds on every side; 30
And the name their voices uttered
Was the name of Vogelweid.

Till at length the portly abbot
Murmured, "Why this waste of
food?
Be it changed to loaves henceforward
For our fasting brotherhood."

Then in vain o'er tower and turret,
From the walls and woodland nests,
When the minster bells rang noontide,
Gathered the unwelcome guests. 40

Then in vain, with cries discordant,
Clamorous round the Gothic spire,
Screamed the feathered Minnesingers
For the children of the choir.

Time has long effaced the inscriptions
On the cloister's funeral stones,
And tradition only tells us
Where repose the poet's bones.

But around the vast cathedral,
By sweet echoes multiplied, 50
Still the birds repeat the legend,
And the name of Vogelweid.

DRINKING SONG

INSCRIPTION FOR AN ANTIQUE PITCHER

COME, old friend! sit down and listen!
 From the pitcher, placed between us,
 How the waters laugh and glisten
 In the head of old Silenus!

Old Silenus, bloated, drunken,
 Led by his inebriate Satyrs;
 On his breast his head is sunken,
 Vacantly he leers and chatters.

Fauns with youthful Bacchus follow;
 Ivy crowns that brow supernal 10
 As the forehead of Apollo,
 And possessing youth eternal.

Round about him, fair Bacchantes,
 Bearing cymbals, flutes, and
 thyrses,
 Wild from Naxian groves, or Zante's
 Vineyards, sing delirious verses.

Thus he won, through all the nations,
 Bloodless victories, and the farmer
 Bore, as trophies and oblations,
 Vines for banners, ploughs for
 armor. 20

Judged by no o'erzealous rigor,
 Much this mystic throng expresses:
 Bacchus was the type of vigor,
 And Silenus of excesses.

These are ancient ethnic revels,
 Of a faith long since forsaken;
 Now the Satyrs, changed to devils,
 Frighten mortals wine-o'ertaken.

Now to rivulets from the mountains
 Point the rods of fortune-tellers; 30
 Youth perpetual dwells in foun-
 tains, —
 Not in flasks, and casks, and cellars.

Claudius, though he sang of flagons
 And huge tankards filled with Rhen-
 ish,
 From that fiery blood of dragons
 Never would his own replenish.

Even Redi, though he chaunted
 Bacchus in the Tuscan valleys,
 Never drank the wine he vaunted
 In his dithyrambic sallies. 40

Then with water fill the pitcher
 Wreathed about with classic fables;
 Ne'er Falernian threw a richer
 Light upon Lucullus' tables.

Come, old friend, sit down and listen!
 As it passes thus between us,
 How its wavelets laugh and glisten
 In the head of old Silenus!

THE OLD CLOCK ON THE STAIRS

L'éternité est une pendule dont le balan-
 cier dit et redit sans cesse ces deux mots
 seulement dans le silence des tombeaux;
 "Toujours, jamais! Jamais, toujours!"
 JACQUES BRIDAINE.

SOMEWHAT back from the village
 street
 Stands the old-fashioned country-seat.
 Across its antique portico
 Tall poplar-trees their shadows throw;
 And from its station in the hall
 An ancient timepiece says to all, —
 "Forever — never!
 Never — forever!"

Half-way up the stairs it stands,
 And points and beckons with its
 hands 10
 From its case of massive oak,
 Like a monk, who, under his cloak,
 Crosses himself, and sighs, alas!
 With sorrowful voice to all who
 pass, —
 "Forever — never!
 Never — forever!"

By day its voice is low and light;
 But in the silent dead of night,
 Distinct as a passing footstep's fall,
 It echoes along the vacant hall, 20
 Along the ceiling, along the floor,
 And seems to say, at each chamber-
 door, —
 "Forever — never!
 Never — forever!"

Through days of sorrow and of mirth,
 Through days of death and days of
 birth,
 Through every swift vicissitude
 Of changeful time, unchanged it has
 stood,

And as if, like God, it all things

It calmly repeats those words of
awe, —

“Forever — never!
Never — forever!”

In that mansion used to be
Free-hearted Hospitality;

Even as a miser counts his gold,
Those hours the ancient timepiece
told, —

“Forever — never!
Never — forever!”

From that chamber, clothed in white,
The bride came forth on her wedding
night;

“Then with water fill the pitcher
Wreathed about with classic fables”

His great fires up the chimney roared;
The stranger feasted at his board;
But, like the skeleton at the feast,
That warning timepiece never
ceased, —

“Forever — never!
Never — forever!”

There groups of merry children
played,
There youths and maidens dreaming
strayed;
O precious hours! O golden prime,
And affluence of love and time!

There, in that silent room below,
The dead lay in his shroud of snow;
And in the hush that followed the
prayer,

Was heard the old clock on the stair, —
“Forever — never!
Never — forever!”

All are scattered now and fled,
Some are married, some are dead;
And when I ask, with throbs of
pain,
“Ah! when shall they all meet
again?”

As in the days long since gone by,
The ancient timepiece makes reply, —

“Forever — never!
Never — forever!”

Never here, forever there,
Where all parting, pain, and care,
And death, and time shall disap-
pear, —

Forever there, but never here!

'The horologe of Eternity
Sayeth this incessantly, —

“Forever — never!
Never — forever!”

70

THE ARROW AND THE SONG

I SHOT an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to
end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

SONNETS

MEZZO CAMMIN

HALF of my life is gone, and I have
let

The years slip from me and have
not fulfilled

The aspiration of my youth, to
build

Some tower of song with lofty para-
pet.

Not indolence, nor pleasure, nor the
fret

Of restless passions that would not
be stilled,

But sorrow, and a care that almost
killed,

Kept me from what I may accom-
plish yet:

Though, half-way up the hill, I see
the Past

Lying beneath me with its sounds
and sights, —

A city in the twilight dim and vast,
With smoking roofs, soft bells, and
gleaming lights, —

And hear above me on the autumnal
blast

The cataract of Death far thunder-
ing from the heights.

THE EVENING STAR

Lo! in the painted oriel of the West,
Whose panes the sunken sun incar-
nadines,

Like a fair lady at her casement,
shines

The evening star, the star of love
and rest!

And then anon she doth herself divest
Of all her radiant garments, and re-
clines

Behind the sombre screen of yonder
pines,

With slumber and soft dreams of
love oppressed.

O my beloved, my sweet Hesperus!
My morning and my evening star
of love!

My best and gentlest lady! even
thus,

As that fair planet in the sky above,
Dost thou retire unto thy rest at
night,

And from thy darkened window
fades the light.

AUTUMN

THOU comest, Autumn, heralded by
the rain,

With banners, by great gales inces-
sant fanned,

Brighter than brightest silks of Sa-
marcand,

And stately oxen harnessed to thy
wain!

Thou standest, like imperial Charle-
magne,

Upon thy bridge of gold; thy royal
hand

Outstretched with benedictions o'er
the land,

Blessing the farms through all thy
vast domain!
Thy shield is the red harvest moon,
suspended
So long beneath the heaven's o'er-
hanging eaves;
Thy steps are by the farmer's prayers
attended;
Like flames upon an altar shine the
sheaves;
And, following thee, in thy ovation
splendid,
Thine almoner, the wind, scatters
the golden leaves!

DANTE

TUSCAN, that wanderest through the
realms of gloom,
With thoughtful pace, and sad, ma-
jestic eyes,
Stern thoughts and awful from thy
soul arise,
Like Farinata from his fiery tomb.
Thy sacred song is like the trump of
doom;
Yet in thy heart what human sym-
pathies,
What soft compassion glows, as in
the skies
The tender stars their clouded lamps
relume!
Methinks I see thee stand with pallid
cheeks
By Fra Hilario in his diocese,
As up the convent-walls, in golden
streaks,
The ascending sunbeams mark the
day's decrease;
And, as he asks what there the
stranger seeks,
Thy voice along the cloister whis-
pers "Peace!"

CURFEW

I

SOLEMNLY, mournfully,
Dealing its dole,
The Curfew Bell
Is beginning to toll.

Cover the embers,
And put out the light;
Toil comes with the morning,
And rest with the night.

Dark grow the windows,
And quenched is the fire;
Sound fades into silence, —
All footsteps retire.

No voice in the chambers,
No sound in the hall!
Sleep and oblivion
Reign over all!

II

The book is completed,
And closed, like the day;
And the hand that has written it
Lays it away.

Dim grow its fancies;
Forgotten they lie;
Like coals in the ashes,
They darken and die.

Song sinks into silence,
The story is told,
The windows are darkened,
The hearth-stone is cold.

Darker and darker
The black shadows fall;
Sleep and oblivion
Reign over all.

"Long at her father's door Evangeline stood"

EVANGELINE

A TALE OF ACADIE

This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks,
Bearded with moss, and in garments green, indistinct in the twilight,
Stand like Druids of eld, with voices sad and prophetic,
Stand like harpers hoar, with beards that rest on their bosoms.
Loud from its rocky caverns, the deep-voiced neighboring ocean
Speaks, and in accents disconsolate answers the wail of the forest.

This is the forest primeval; but where are the hearts that beneath it
Leaped like the roe, when he hears in the woodland the voice of the huntsman?

Where is the thatch-roofed village, the home of Acadian farmers, —
 Men whose lives glided on like rivers that water the woodlands,
 Darkened by shadows of earth, but reflecting an image of heaven?
 Waste are those pleasant farms, and the farmers forever departed!
 Scattered like dust and leaves, when the mighty blasts of October
 Seize them, and whirl them aloft, and sprinkle them far o'er the ocean.
 Naught but tradition remains of the beautiful village of Grand-Pré. X-

10

Ye who believe in affection that hopes, and endures, and is patient,
 Ye who believe in the beauty and strength of woman's devotion,
 List to the mournful tradition, still sung by the pines of the forest;
 List to a Tale of Love in Acadie, home of the happy.

and more

PART THE FIRST

I

In the Acadian land, on the shores of the Basin of Minas,
 Distant, secluded, still, the little village of Grand-Pré —
 Lay in the fruitful valley. Vast meadows stretched to the eastward,
 Giving the village its name, and pasture to flocks without number.
 Dikes, that the hands of the farmers had raised with labor incessant,
 Shut out the turbulent tides; but at stated seasons the flood-gates
 Opened, and welcomed the sea to wander at will o'er the meadows.
 West and south there were fields of flax, and orchards and cornfields
 Spreading afar and unfenced o'er the plain; and away to the northward
 Blomidon rose, and the forests old, and aloft on the mountains
 Sea-fogs pitched their tents, and mists from the mighty Atlantic
 Looked on the happy valley, but ne'er from their station descended.
 There, in the midst of its farms, reposed the Acadian village.
 Strongly built were the houses, with frames of oak and of hemlock,
 Such as the peasants of Normandy built in the reign of the Henries.
 Thatched were the roofs, with dormer-windows; and gables projecting
 Over the basement below protected and shaded the doorway.
 There in the tranquil evenings of summer, when brightly the sunset
 Lighted the village street, and gilded the vanes on the chimneys,
 Matrons and maidens sat in snow-white caps and in kirtles
 Scarlet and blue and green, with distaffs spinning the golden
 Flax for the gossiping looms, whose noisy shuttles within doors
 Mingled their sounds with the whir of the wheels and the songs of the maidens.
 Solemnly down the street came the parish priest, and the children
 Paused in their play to kiss the hand he extended to bless them.
 Reverend walked he among them; and up rose matrons and maidens,
 Hailing his slow approach with words of affectionate welcome.
 Then came the laborers home from the field, and serenely the sun sank
 Down to his rest, and twilight prevailed. Anon from the belfry
 Softly the Angelus sounded, and over the roofs of the village
 Columns of pale blue smoke, like clouds of incense ascending,
 Rose from a hundred hearths, the homes of peace and contentment.
 Thus dwelt together in love these simple Acadian farmers, —

20

30

40

50

Dwelt in the love of God and of man. Alike were they free from
 Fear, that reigns with the tyrant, and envy, the vice of republics.
 Neither locks had they to their doors, nor bars to their windows ;
 But their dwellings were open as day and the hearts of the owners ;
 There the richest was poor, and the poorest lived in abundance.

Somewhat apart from the village, and nearer the Basin of Minas,
 Benedict Bellefontaine, the wealthiest farmer of Grand-Pré,
 Dwelt on his goodly acres ; and with him, directing his household, 60
 Gentle Evangeline lived, his child and the pride of the village.
 Stalworth and stately in form was the man of seventy winters ;
 Hearty and hale was he, an oak that is covered with snow-flakes ;
 White as the snow were his locks, and his cheeks as brown as the oak-leaves.
 Fair was she to behold, that maiden of seventeen summers.
 Black were her eyes as the berry that grows on the thorn by the wayside,
 Black, yet how softly they gleamed beneath the brown shade of her tresses !
 Sweet was her breath as the breath of kine that feed in the meadows.
 When in the harvest heat she bore to the reapers at noontide
 Flagons of home-brewed ale, ah ! fair in sooth was the maiden. 70
 Fairer was she when, on Sunday morn, while the bell from its turret
 Sprinkled with holy sounds the air, as the priest with his hyssop
 Sprinkles the congregation, and scatters blessings upon them,
 Down the long street she passed, with her chaplet of beads and her missal,
 Wearing her Norman cap, and her kirtle of blue, and the ear-rings,
 Brought in the olden time from France, and since, as an heirloom,
 Handed down from mother to child, through long generations.
 But a celestial brightness — a more ethereal beauty —
 Shone on her face and encircled her form, when, after confession,
 Homeward serenely she walked with God's benediction upon her. 8
 When she had passed, it seemed like the ceasing of exquisite music.

Firmly builded with rafters of oak, the house of the farmer
 Stood on the side of a hill commanding the sea ; and a shady
 Sycamore grew by the door, with a woodbine wreathing around it.
 Rudely carved was the porch, with seats beneath ; and a footpath
 Led through an orchard wide, and disappeared in the meadow.
 Under the sycamore-tree were hives overhung by a penthouse,
 Such as the traveller sees in regions remote by the roadside,
 Built o'er a box for the poor, or the blessed image of Mary.
 Farther down, on the slope of the hill, was the well with its moss-grown 90
 Bucket, fastened with iron, and near it a trough for the horses.
 Shielding the house from storms, on the north, were the barns and the farm-
 yard.
 There stood the broad-wheeled wains and the antique ploughs and the har
 rows ;
 There were the folds for the sheep ; and there, in his feathered seraglio,
 Strutted the lordly turkey, and crowed the cock, with the selfsame
 Voice that in ages of old had startled the penitent Peter.
 Bursting with hay were the barns, themselves a village. In each one
 Far o'er the gable projected a roof of thatch ; and a staircase,

... "the children
Paused in their play to kiss the hand he attended "

Under the sheltering eaves, led up to the odorous corn-loft,
There too the dove-cot stood, with its meek and innocent inmates
Murmuring ever of love; while above in the variant breezes
Numberless noisy weathercocks rattled and sang of mutation.

Thus, at peace with God and the world, the farmer of Grand-Pré
Lived on his sunny farm, and Evangeline governed his household.
Many a youth, as he knelt in church and opened his missal,
Fixed his eyes upon her as the saint of his deepest devotion;
Happy was he who might touch her hand or the hem of her garment!

Many a suitor came to her door, by the darkness befriended,
 And, as he knocked and waited to hear the sound of her footsteps,
 Knew not which beat the louder, his heart or the knocker of iron ; 110
 Or at the joyous feast of the Patron Saint of the village,
 Bolder grew, and pressed her hand in the dance as he whispered
 Hurried words of love, that seemed a part of the music.
 But, among all who came, young Gabriel only was welcome ;
 Gabriel Lajeunesse, the son of Basil the blacksmith,
 Who was a mighty man in the village, and honored of all men ;
 For, since the birth of time, throughout all ages and nations,
 Has the craft of the smith been held in repute by the people.
 Basil was Benedict's friend. Their children from earliest childhood
 Grew up together as brother and sister ; and Father Felician, 120
 Priest and pedagogue both in the village, had taught them their letters
 Out of the selfsame book, with the hymns of the church and the plain-song.
 But when the hymn was sung, and the daily lesson completed,
 Swiftly they hurried away to the forge of Basil the blacksmith.
 There at the door they stood, with wondering eyes to behold him
 Take in his leathern lap the hoof of the horse as a plaything,
 Nailing the shoe in its place ; while near him the tire of the cart-wheel
 Lay like a fiery snake, coiled round in a circle of cinders.
 Oft on autumnal eves, when without in the gathering darkness
 Bursting with light seemed the smithy, through every cranny and crevice, 130
 Warm by the forge within they watched the laboring bellows,
 And as its panting ceased, and the sparks expired in the ashes,
 Merrily laughed, and said they were nuns going into the chapel.
 Oft on sledges in winter, as swift as the swoop of the eagle,
 Down the hillside bounding, they glided away o'er the meadow.
 Oft in the barns they climbed to the populous nests on the rafters,
 Seeking with eager eyes that wondrous stone, which the swallow
 Brings from the shore of the sea to restore the sight of its fledglings ;
 Lucky was he who found that stone in the nest of the swallow !
 Thus passed a few swift years, and they no longer were children. 140
 He was a valiant youth, and his face, like the face of the morning,
 Gladdened the earth with its light, and ripened thought into action.
 She was a woman now, with the heart and hopes of a woman.
 "Sunshine of Saint Eulalie" was she called ; for that was the sunshine
 Which, as the farmers believed, would load their orchards with apples ;
 She, too, would bring to her husband's house delight and abundance,
 Filling it with love and the ruddy faces of children.

II

Now had the season returned, when the nights grow colder and longer,
 And the retreating sun the sign of the Scorpion enters.
 Birds of passage sailed through the leaden air, from the ice-bound, 150
 Desolate northern bays to the shores of tropical islands.
 Harvests were gathered in ; and wild with the winds of September
 Wrestled the trees of the forest, as Jacob of old with the angel.
 All the signs foretold a winter long and inclement.

Bees, with prophetic instinct of want, had hoarded their honey
Till the hives overflowed ; and the Indian hunters asserted
Cold would the winter be, for thick was the fur of the foxes.
Such was the advent of autumn. Then followed that beautiful season,
Called by the pious Acadian peasants the Summer of All-Saints!
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light ; and the landscape 160
Lay as if new-created in all the freshness of childhood.
Peace seemed to reign upon earth, and the restless heart of the ocean
Was for a moment consoled. All sounds were in harmony blended.
Voices of children at play, the crowing of cocks in the farm yards,
Whir of wings in the drowsy air, and the cooing of pigeons,
All were subdued and low as the murmurs of love, and the great sun
Looked with the eye of love through the golden vapors around him ;
While arrayed in its robes of russet and scarlet and yellow,
Bright with the sheen of the dew, each glittering tree of the forest
Flashed like the plane-tree the Persian adorned with mantles and jewels. 170

Now recommenced the reign of rest and affection and stillness.
Day with its burden and heat had departed, and twilight descending
Brought back the evening star to the sky, and the herds to the homestead.
Pawing the ground they came, and resting their necks on each other,
And with their nostrils distended inhaling the freshness of evening.
Foremost, bearing the bell, Evangeline's beautiful heifer,
Proud of her snow-white hide, and the ribbon that waved from her collar,
Quietly paced and slow, as if conscious of human affection.
Then came the shepherd back with his bleating flocks from the seaside,
Where was their favorite pasture. Behind them followed the watch-dog, 180
Patient, full of importance, and grand in the pride of his instinct,
Walking from side to side with a lordly air, and superbly
Waving his bushy tail, and urging forward the stragglers ;
Regent of flocks was he when the shepherd slept ; their protector,
When from the forest at night, through the starry silence the wolves howled.
Late, with the rising moon, returned the wains from the marshes,
Laden with briny hay, that filled the air with its odor.
Cheerily neighed the steeds, with dew on their manes and their fetlocks,
While aloft on their shoulders the wooden and ponderous saddles,
Painted with brilliant dyes, and adorned with tassels of crimson, 190
Nodded in bright array, like hollyhocks heavy with blossoms.
Patiently stood the cows meanwhile, and yielded their udders
Unto the milkmaid's hand ; whilst loud and in regular cadence
Into the sounding pails the foaming streamlets descended.
Lowing of cattle and peals of laughter were heard in the farm-yard,
Echoed back by the barns. Anon they sank into stillness ;
Heavily closed, with a jarring sound, the valves of the barn-doors,
Rattled the wooden bars, and all for a season was silent.

In-doors, warm by the wide-mouthed fireplace, idly the farmer
Sat in his elbow-chair and watched how the flames and the smoke-wreaths 200
Struggled together like foes in a burning city. Behind him,
Nodding and mocking along the wall, with gestures fantastic,

Darted his own huge shadow, and vanished away into darkness.
 Faces, clumsily carved in oak, on the back of his arm-chair
 Laughed in the flickering light; and the pewter plates on the dresser
 Caught and reflected the flame, as shields of armies the sunshine.
 Fragments of song the old man sang, and carols of Christmas,
 Such as at home, in the olden time, his fathers before him
 Sang in their Norman orchards and bright Burgundian vineyards.
 Close at her father's side was the gentle Evangeline seated, 210
 Spinning flax for the loom, that stood in the corner behind her.
 Silent awhile were its treadles, at rest was its diligent shuttle,
 While the monotonous drone of the wheel, like the drone of a bagpipe,
 Followed the old man's song and united the fragments together.
 As in a church, when the chant of the choir at intervals ceases,
 Footfalls are heard in the aisles, or words of the priest at the altar,
 So, in each pause of the song, with measured motion the clock clicked.

Thus as they sat, there were footsteps heard, and, suddenly lifted,
 Sounded the wooden latch, and the door swung back on its hinges.
 Benedict knew by the hob-nailed shoes it was Basil the blacksmith, 220
 And by her beating heart Evangeline knew who was with him.
 "Welcome!" the farmer exclaimed, as their footsteps paused on the threshold,
 "Welcome, Basil, my friend! Come, take thy place on the settle
 Close by the chimney-side, which is always empty without thee;
 Take from the shelf overhead thy pipe and the box of tobacco;
 Never so much thyself art thou as when through the curling
 Smoke of the pipe or the forge thy friendly and jovial face gleams
 Round and red as the harvest moon through the mist of the marshes."
 Then, with a smile of content, thus answered Basil the blacksmith,
 Taking with easy air the accustomed seat by the fireside: — 230
 "Benedict Bellefontaine, thou hast ever thy jest and thy ballad!
 Ever in cheerfullest mood art thou, when others are filled with
 Gloomy forebodings of ill, and see only ruin before them.
 Happy art thou, as if every day thou hadst picked up a horseshoe."
 Pausing a moment, to take the pipe that Evangeline brought him,
 And with a coal from the embers had lighted, he slowly continued: —
 "Four days now are passed since the English ships at their anchors
 Ride in the Gaspereau's mouth, with their cannon pointed against us.
 What their design may be is unknown; but all are commanded
 On the morrow to meet in the church, where his Majesty's mandate 240
 Will be proclaimed as law in the land. Alas! in the mean time
 Many surmises of evil alarm the hearts of the people."
 Then made answer the farmer: "Perhaps some friendlier purpose
 Brings these ships to our shores. Perhaps the harvests in England
 By untimely rains or untimelier heat have been blighted,
 And from our bursting barns they would feed their cattle and children."
 "Not so thinketh the folk in the village," said, warmly, the blacksmith,
 Shaking his head, as in doubt; then, heaving a sigh, he continued: —
 "Louisburg is not forgotten, nor Beau Séjour, nor Port Royal.
 Many already have fled to the forest, and lurk on its outskirts, 250
 Waiting with anxious hearts the dubious fate of to-morrow.

Arms have been taken from us, and warlike weapons of all kinds;
Nothing is left but the blacksmith's sledge and the scythe of the mower."
Then with a pleasant smile made answer the jovial farmer: —
"Safer are we unarmed, in the midst of our flocks and our cornfields,
Safer within these peaceful dikes, besieged by the ocean,
Than our fathers in forts, besieged by the enemy's cannon.
Fear no evil, my friend, and to-night may no shadow of sorrow
Fall on this house and hearth, for this is the night of the contract.
Built are the house and the barn. The merry lads of the village 260
Strongly have built them and well; and, breaking the glebe round about them,
Filled the barn with hay, and the house with food for a twelvemonth.
René Leblanc will be here anon, with his papers and inkhorn.
Shall we not then be glad, and rejoice in the joy of our children?"
As apart by the window she stood, with her hand in her lover's,
Blushing Evangeline heard the words that her father had spoken,
And, as they died on his lips, the worthy notary entered.

"The little village of Grand-Fréd
Lay in the fruitful valley"

III

Bent like a laboring oar, that toils in the surf of the ocean,
 Bent, but not broken, by age was the form of the notary public ;
 Shocks of yellow hair, like the silken floss of the maize, hung 270
 Over his shoulders ; his forehead was high ; and glasses with horn bows
 Sat astride on his nose, with a look of wisdom supernal.
 Father of twenty children was he, and more than a hundred
 Children's children rode on his knee, and heard his great watch tick.
 Four long years in the times of the war had he languished a captive,
 Suffering much in an old French fort as the friend of the English.
 Now, though warier grown, without all guile or suspicion,
 Ripe in wisdom was he, but patient, and simple, and childlike.
 He was beloved by all, and most of all by the children ;
 For he told them tales of the Loup-garou in the forest, 280
 And of the goblin that came in the night to water the horses,
 And of the white Létiche, the ghost of a child who unchristened
 Died, and was doomed to haunt unseen the chambers of children ;
 And how on Christmas eve the oxen talked in the stable,
 And how the fever was cured by a spider shut up in a nutshell,
 And of the marvellous powers of four-leaved clover and horseshoes,
 With whatsoever else was writ in the lore of the village.
 Then up rose from his seat by the fireside Basil the blacksmith,
 Knocked from his pipe the ashes, and slowly extending his right hand,
 "Father Leblanc," he exclaimed, "thou hast heard the talk in the village, 290
 And, perchance, canst tell us some news of these ships and their errand."
 Then with modest demeanor made answer the notary public, —
 "Gossip enough have I heard, in sooth, yet am never the wiser ;
 And what their errand may be I know not better than others.
 Yet am I not of those who imagine some evil intention
 Brings them here, for we are at peace ; and why then molest us ?"
 "God's name !" shouted the hasty and somewhat irascible blacksmith ;
 "Must we in all things look for the how, and the why, and the wherefore ?
 Daily injustice is done, and might is the right of the strongest !"
 But without heeding his warmth, continued the notary public, — 300
 "Man is unjust, but God is just ; and finally justice
 Triumphs ; and well I remember a story, that often consoled me,
 When as a captive I lay in the old French fort at Port Royal."
 This was the old man's favorite tale, and he loved to repeat it
 When his neighbors complained that any injustice was done them.
 "Once in an ancient city, whose name I no longer remember,
 Raised aloft on a column, a brazen statue of Justice
 Stood in the public square, upholding the scales in its left hand,
 And in its right a sword, as an emblem that justice presided
 Over the laws of the land, and the hearts and homes of the people. 310
 Even the birds had built their nests in the scales of the balance,
 Having no fear of the sword that flashed in the sunshine above them.
 But in the course of time the laws of the land were corrupted ;
 Might took the place of right, and the weak were oppressed, and the mighty
 Ruled with an iron rod. Then it chanced in a nobleman's palace

That a necklace of pearls was lost, and ere long a suspicion
Fell on an orphan girl who lived as a maid in the household.
She, after form of trial condemned to die on the scaffold,
Patiently met her doom at the foot of the statue of Justice.
As to her Father in heaven her innocent spirit ascended,
Lo! o'er the city a tempest rose; and the bolts of the thunder
Smote the statue of bronze, and hurled in wrath from its left hand
Down on the pavement below the clattering scales of the balance,
And in the hollow thereof was found the nest of a magpie,
Into whose clay-built walls the necklace of pearls was inwoven."
Silenced, but not convinced, when the story was ended, the blacksmith
Stood like a man who fain would speak but findeth no language;
All his thoughts were congealed into lines on his face, as the vapors
Freeze in fantastic shapes on the window-panes in the winter.

320

Then Evangeline lighted the brazen lamp on the table,
Filled, till it overflowed, the pewter tankard with home-brewed
Nut-brown ale, that was famed for its strength in the village of Grand-Pré;
While from his pocket the notary drew his papers and inkhorn,
Wrote with a steady hand the date and the age of the parties,
Naming the dower of the bride in flocks of sheep and in cattle.
Orderly all things proceeded, and duly and well were completed,
And the great seal of the law was set like a sun on the margin.
Then from his leathern pouch the farmer threw on the table
Three times the old man's fee in solid pieces of silver;
And the notary rising, and blessing the bride and the bridegroom,
Lifted aloft the tankard of ale and drank to their welfare.
Wiping the foam from his lip, he solemnly bowed and departed,
While in silence the others sat and mused by the fireside,
Till Evangeline brought the draught-board out of its corner.
Soon was the game begun. In friendly contention the old men
Laughed at each lucky hit, or unsuccessful manœuvre,
Laughed when a man was crowned, or a breach was made in the king-row.
Meanwhile apart, in the twilight gloom of a window's embrasure,
Sat the lovers, and whispered together, beholding the moon rise
Over the pallid sea, and the silvery mists of the meadows.
Silently one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven,
Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels.

330

340

350

Thus was the evening passed. Anon the bell from the belfry
Rang out the hour of nine, the village curfew, and straightway
Rose the guests and departed; and silence reigned in the household.
Many a farewell word and sweet good-night on the door-step
Lingered long in Evangeline's heart, and filled it with gladness.
Carefully then were covered the embers that glowed on the hearth-stone,
And on the oaken stairs resounded the tread of the farmer.
Soon with a soundless step the foot of Evangeline followed.
Up the staircase moved a luminous space in the darkness,
Lighted less by the lamp than the shining face of the maiden.
Silent she passed the hall, and entered the door of her chamber.

360

Simple that chamber was, with its curtains of white, and its clothes-press
Ample and high, on whose spacious shelves were carefully folded
Linen and woollen stuffs, by the hand of Evangeline woven.
This was the precious dower she would bring to her husband in marriage,
Better than flocks and herds, being proofs of her skill as a housewife.
Soon she extinguished her lamp, for the mellow and radiant moonlight
Streamed through the windows, and lighted the room, till the heart of the
 maiden 37^c
Swelled and obeyed its power, like the tremulous tides of the ocean.
Ah! she was fair, exceeding fair to behold, as she stood with
Naked snow-white feet on the gleaming floor of her chamber!
Little she dreamed that below, among the trees of the orchard,

"blessing the bride and the bridegroom,
Lifted aloft the tankard"

"from the farms and neighboring hamlets
Came in their holiday dresses the blithe Acadian peasants"

Waited her lover and watched for the gleam of her lamp and her shadow.
Yet were her thoughts of him, and at times a feeling of sadness
Passed o'er her soul, as the sailing shade of clouds in the moonlight
Flitted across the floor and darkened the room for a moment.
And, as she gazed from the window, she saw serenely the moon pass
Forth from the folds of a cloud, and one star follow her footsteps,
As out of Abraham's tent young Ishmael wandered with Hagar !

38c

IV

Pleasantly rose next morn the sun on the village of Grand-Pré.
Pleasantly gleamed in the soft, sweet air the Basin of Minas,
Where the ships, with their wavering shadows, were riding at anchor.
Life had long been astir in the village, and clamorous labor
Knocked with its hundred hands at the golden gates of the morning.
Now from the country around, from the farms and neighboring hamlets,
Came in their holiday dresses the blithe Acadian peasants.
Many a glad good-morrow and jocund laugh from the young folk
Made the bright air brighter, as up from the numerous meadows,
Where no path could be seen but the track of wheels in the greensward,
Group after group appeared, and joined, or passed on the highway.
Long ere noon, in the village all sounds of labor were silenced.
Thronged were the streets with people ; and noisy groups at the house-doors

19c

Sat in the cheerful sun, and rejoiced and gossiped together.
 Every house was an inn, where all were welcomed and feasted ;
 For with this simple people, who lived like brothers together,
 All things were held in common, and what one had was another's.
 Yet under Benedict's roof hospitality seemed more abundant:
 For Evangeline stood among the guests of her father ;
 Bright was her face with smiles, and words of welcome and gladness
 Fell from her beautiful lips, and blessed the cup as she gave it.

400

Under the open sky, in the odorous air of the orchard,
 Stript of its golden fruit, was spread the feast of betrothal.
 There in the shade of the porch were the priest and the notary seated .
 There good Benedict sat, and sturdy Basil the blacksmith.
 Not far withdrawn from these, by the cider-press and the beehives,
 Michael the fiddler was placed, with the gayest of hearts and of waistcoats.
 Shadow and light from the leaves alternately played on his snow-white
 Hair, as it waved in the wind ; and the jolly face of the fiddler
 Glowed like a living coal when the ashes are blown from the embers.
 Gayly the old man sang to the vibrant sound of his fiddle,
Tous les Bourgeois de Chartres, and *Le Carillon de Dunquerque*,
 And anon with his wooden shoes beat time to the music.
 Merrily, merrily whirled the wheels of the dizzying dances
 Under the orchard-trees and down the path to the meadows ;
 Old folk and young together, and children mingled among them.
 Fairest of all the maids was Evangeline, Benedict's daughter !
 Noblest of all the youths was Gabriel, son of the blacksmith !

410

So passed the morning away. And lo ! with a summons sonorous
 Sounded the bell from its tower, and over the meadows a drum beat.
 Thronged erelong was the church with men. Without, in the churchyard,
 Waited the women. They stood by the graves, and hung on the head-
 stones

420

Garlands of autumn-leaves and evergreens fresh from the forest.
 Then came the guard from the ships, and marching proudly among them
 Entered the sacred portal. With loud and dissonant clangor
 Echoed the sound of their brazen drums from ceiling and casement, —
 Echoed a moment only, and slowly the ponderous portal
 Closed, and in silence the crowd awaited the will of the soldiers.
 Then uprose their commander, and spake from the steps of the altar,
 Holding aloft in his hands, with its seals, the royal commission.
 " You are convened this day," he said, " by his Majesty's orders.
 Clement and kind has he been ; but how you have answered his kindness,
 Let your own hearts reply ! To my natural make and my temper
 Painful the task is I do, which to you I know must be grievous.
 Yet must I bow and obey, and deliver the will of our monarch ;
 Namely, that all your lands, and dwellings, and cattle of all kinds
 Forfeited be to the crown ; and that you yourselves from this province
 Be transported to other lands. God grant you may dwell there
 Ever as faithful subjects, a happy and peaceable people !
 Prisoners now I declare you ; for such is his Majesty's pleasure !"
 As, when the air is serene in sultry solstice of summer.

430

440

Suddenly gathers a storm, and the deadly sling of the hailstones
Beats down the farmer's corn in the field and shatters his windows,
Hiding the sun, and strewing the ground with thatch from the house-roofs,
Bellowing fly the herds, and seek to break their enclosures ;
So on the hearts of the people descended the words of the speaker.
Silent a moment they stood in speechless wonder, and then rose
Louder and ever louder a wail of sorrow and anger,
And, by one impulse moved, they madly rushed to the door-way. 45c
Vain was the hope of escape ; and cries and fierce imprecations
Rang through the house of prayer ; and high o'er the heads of the others
Rose, with his arms uplifted, the figure of Basil the blacksmith,
As, on a stormy sea, a spar is tossed by the billows.
Flushed was his face and distorted with passion ; and wildly he shouted, —
"Down with the tyrants of England ! we never have sworn them allegiance !
Death to these foreign soldiers, who seize on our homes and our harvests !"
More he fain would have said, but the merciless hand of a soldier
Smote him upon the mouth, and dragged him down to the pavement.

In the midst of the strife and tumult of angry contention, 46c
Lo! the door of the chancel opened, and Father Felician
Entered, with serious mien, and ascended the steps of the altar.
Raising his reverend hand, with a gesture he awed into silence
All that clamorous throng ; and thus he spake to his people ;
Deep were his tones and solemn ; in accents measured and mournful
Spake he, as, after the tocsin's alarum, distinctly the clock strikes.
"What is this that ye do, my children ? what madness has seized you ?
Forty years of my life have I labored among you, and taught you,
Not in word alone, but in deed, to love one another !
Is this the fruit of my toils, of my vigils and prayers and privations? 47c
Have you so soon forgotten all lessons of love and forgiveness ?
This is the house of the Prince of Peace, and would you profane it
Thus with violent deeds and hearts overflowing with hatred ?
Lo! where the crucified Christ from his cross is gazing upon you !
See! in those sorrowful eyes what meekness and holy compassion !
Hark! how those lips still repeat the prayer, ' O Father, forgive them !'
Let us repeat that prayer in the hour when the wicked assail us,
Let us repeat it now, and say, ' O Father, forgive them !' "
Few were his words of rebuke, but deep in the hearts of his people
Sank they, and sobs of contrition succeeded the passionate outbreak,
While they repeated his prayer, and said, " O Father, forgive them !"

Then came the evening service. The tapers gleamed from the altar.
Fervent and deep was the voice of the priest, and the people responded,
Not with their lips alone, but their hearts ; and the Ave Maria
Sang they, and fell on their knees, and their souls, with devotion translated,
Rose on the ardor of prayer, like Elijah ascending to heaven.

Meanwhile had spread in the village the tidings of ill, and on all sides
Wandered, wailing, from house to house the women and children.
Long at her father's door Evangeline stood, with her right hand

Shielding her eyes from the level rays of the sun, that, descending,
 Lighted the village street with mysterious splendor, and roofed each
 Peasant's cottage with golden thatch, and emblazoned its windows.
 Long within had been spread the snow-white cloth on the table ;
 There stood the wheaten loaf, and the honey fragrant with wild-flowers ;
 There stood the tankard of ale, and the cheese fresh brought from the dairy.
 And, at the head of the board, the great arm-chair of the farmer.
 Thus did Evangeline wait at her father's door, as the sunset
 Threw the long shadows of trees o'er the broad ambrosial meadows.
 Ah! on her spirit within a deeper shadow had fallen,
 And from the fields of her soul a fragrance celestial ascended, —
 Charity, meekness, love, and hope, and forgiveness, and patience!
 Then, all-forgetful of self, she wandered into the village,
 Cheering with looks and words the mournful hearts of the women,
 As o'er the darkening fields with lingering steps they departed,
 Urged, by their household cares, and the weary feet of their children.
 Down sank the great red sun, and in golden, glimmering vapors
 Veiled the light of his face, like the Prophet descending from Sinai.
 Sweetly over the village the bell of the Angelus sounded.

Meanwhile, amid the gloom, by the church Evangeline lingered.
 All was silent within ; and in vain at the door and the windows
 Stood she, and listened and looked, till, overcome by emotion,
 " Gabriel ! " cried she aloud with tremulous voice ; but no answer
 Came from the graves of the dead, nor the gloomier grave of the living.
 Slowly at length she returned to the tenantless house of her father.
 Smouldered the fire on the hearth, on the board was the supper untasted,
 Empty and drear was each room, and haunted with phantoms of terror.
 Sadly echoed her step on the stair and the floor of her chamber.
 In the dead of the night she heard the disconsolate rain fall
 Loud on the withered leaves of the sycamore-tree by the window.
 Keenly the lightning flashed ; and the voice of the echoing thunder
 Told her that God was in heaven, and governed the world he created !
 Then she remembered the tales he had heard of the justice of Heaven,
 Soothed was her troubled soul, and she peacefully slumbered till morning.

V

Four times the sun had risen and set ; and now on the fifth day
 Cheerily called the cock to the sleeping maids of the farm-house.
 Soon o'er the yellow fields, in silent and mournful procession,
 Came from the neighboring hamlets and farms the Acadian women,
 Driving in ponderous wains their household goods to the sea-shore,
 Pausing and looking back to gaze once more on their dwellings,
 Ere they were shut from sight by the winding road and the woodland.
 Close at their sides their children ran, and urged on the oxen,
 While in their little hands they clasped some fragments of playthings.

Thus to the Gaspereau's mouth they hurried ; and there on the sea-beach
 Piled in confusion lay the household goods of the peasants.
 All day long between the shore and the ships did the boats ply ;

All day long the wains came laboring down from the village.
Late in the afternoon, when the sun was near to his setting,
Echoed far o'er the fields came the roll of drums from the churchyard.
Thither the women and children thronged. On a sudden the church-doors
Opened, and forth came the guard, and marching in gloomy procession 540
Followed the long-imprisoned, but patient, Acadian farmers.
Even as pilgrims, who journey afar from their homes and their country,
Sing as they go, and in singing forget they are weary and wayworn,
So with songs on their lips the Acadian peasants descended
Down from the church to the shore, amid their wives and their daughters.
Foremost the young men came; and, raising together their voices,
Sang with tremulous lips a chant of the Catholic Missions:—
"Sacred heart of the Saviour! O inexhaustible fountain!
Fill our hearts this day with strength and submission and patience!"
Then the old men, as they marched, and the women that stood by the wayside
Joined in the sacred psalm, and the birds in the sunshine above them 551
Mingled their notes therewith, like voices of spirits departed.

Half-way down to the shore Evangeline waited in silence,
Not overcome with grief, but strong in the hour of affliction,—
Calmly and sadly she waited, until the procession approached her,

"Clasped she his hands, and laid her head on his shoulder"

And she beheld the face of Gabriel pale with emotion.

Tears then filled her eyes, and, eagerly running to meet him,

Clasped she his hands, and laid her head on his shoulder, and whispered, —

“Gabriel! be of good cheer! for if we love one another

Nothing, in truth, can harm us, whatever mischances may happen!”

560

Smiling she spake these words; then suddenly paused, for her father

Saw she slowly advancing. Alas! how changed was his aspect!

Gone was the glow from his cheek, and the fire from his eye, and his footstep

Heavier seemed with the weight of the heavy heart in his bosom.

But with a smile and a sigh, she clasped his neck and embraced him,

Speaking words of endearment where words of comfort availed not.

Thus to the Gaspereau's mouth moved on that mournful procession.

There disorder prevailed, and the tumult and stir of embarking.

Busily plied the freighted boats; and in the confusion

Wives were torn from their husbands, and mothers, too late, saw their children

Left on the land, extending their arms, with wildest entreaties.

571

So unto separate ships were Basil and Gabriel carried,

While in despair on the shore Evangeline stood with her father.

Half the task was not done when the sun went down, and the twilight

Deepened and darkened around; and in haste the reflux ocean

Fled away from the shore, and left the line of the sand-beach

Covered with waifs of the tide, with kelp and the slippery sea-weed.

Farther back in the midst of the household goods and the wagons,

Like to a gypsy camp, or a leaguer after a battle,

All escape cut off by the sea, and the sentinels near them,

580

Lay encamped for the night the houseless Acadian farmers.

Back to its nethermost caves retreated the bellowing ocean,

Dragging adown the beach the rattling pebbles, and leaving

Inland and far up the shore the stranded boats of the sailors.

Then, as the night descended, the herds returned from their pastures;

Sweet was the moist still air with the odor of milk from their udders;

Lowing they waited, and long, at the well-known bars of the farm-yard, —

Waited and looked in vain for the voice and the hand of the milk-maid.

Silence reigned in the streets; from the church no Angelus sounded,

Rose no smoke from the roofs, and gleamed no lights from the windows.

590

But on the shores meanwhile the evening fires had been kindled,

Built of the drift-wood thrown on the sands from wrecks in the tempest.

Round them shapes of gloom and sorrowful faces were gathered,

Voices of women were heard, and of men, and the crying of children.

Onward from fire to fire, as from hearth to hearth in his parish,

Wandered the faithful priest, consoling and blessing and cheering,

Like unto shipwrecked Paul on Melita's desolate sea-shore.

Thus he approached the place where Evangeline sat with her father,

And in the flickering light beheld the face of the old man,

Haggard and hollow and wan, and without either thought or emotion,

600

E'en as the face of a clock from which the hands have been taken.

Vainly Evangeline strove with words and caresses to cheer him,

Vainly offered him food; yet he moved not, he looked not, he spake not,

But, with a vacant stare, ever gazed at the flickering fire-light.

"*Benedicite!*" murmured the priest, in tones of compassion.

More he fain would have said, but his heart was full, and his accents

Faltered and paused on his lips, as the feet of a child on a threshold,

Hushed by the scene he beholds, and the awful presence of sorrow.

Silently, therefore, he laid his hand on the head of the maiden,

Raising his tearful eyes to the silent stars that above them

Moved on their way, unperturbed by the wrongs and sorrows of mortals.

Then sat he down at her side, and they wept together in silence.

610

Suddenly rose from the south a light, as in autumn the blood-red

Moon climbs the crystal walls of heaven, and o'er the horizon

Titan-like stretches its hundred hands upon the mountain and meadow,

Seizing the rocks and the rivers and piling huge shadows together.

Broader and ever broader it gleamed on the roofs of the village,

Gleamed on the sky and sea, and the ships that lay in the roadstead.

Columns of shining smoke uprose, and flashes of flame were

Thrust through their folds and withdrawn, like the quivering hands of a
martyr.

620

Then as the wind seized the gleeds and the burning thatch, and, uplifting,

Whirled them aloft through the air, at once from a hundred house-tops

Started the sheeted smoke with flashes of flame intermingled.

These things beheld in dismay the crowd on the shore and on shipboard.

Speechless at first they stood, then cried aloud in their anguish,

"We shall behold no more our homes in the village of Grand-Pré!"

Loud on a sudden the cocks began to crow in the farm-yards,

Thinking the day had dawned; and anon the lowing of cattle

Came on the evening breeze, by the barking of dogs interrupted.

Then rose a sound of dread, such as startles the sleeping encampments

Far in the western prairies or forests that skirt the Nebraska,

When the wild horses affrighted sweep by with the speed of the whirlwind,

Or the loud bellowing herds of buffaloes rush to the river.

Such was the sound that arose on the night, as the herds and the horses

Broke through their folds and fences, and madly rushed o'er the meadows.

630

Overwhelmed with the sight, yet speechless, the priest and the maiden

Gazed on the scene of terror that reddened and widened before them;

And as they turned at length to speak to their silent companion,

Lo! from his seat he had fallen, and stretched abroad on the sea-shore

Motionless lay his form, from which the soul had departed.

Slowly the priest uplifted the lifeless head, and the maiden

Knelt at her father's side, and wailed aloud in her terror.

Then in a swoon she sank, and lay with her head on his bosom.

Through the long night she lay in deep, oblivious slumber;

And when she awoke from the trance, she beheld a multitude near her.

Faces of friends she beheld, that were mournfully gazing upon her,

Pallid, with tearful eyes, and looks of saddest compassion.

Still the blaze of the burning village illumined the landscape,

Reddened the sky overhead, and gleamed on the faces around her,

And like the day of doom it seemed to her wavering senses.
 Then a familiar voice she heard, as it said to the people, —
 “Let us bury him here by the sea. When a happier season
 Brings us again to our homes from the unknown land of our exile,
 Then shall his sacred dust be piously laid in the churchyard.”
 Such were the words of the priest. And there in haste by the sea-side,
 Having the glare of the burning village for funeral torches,
 But without bell or book, they buried the farmer of Grand-Pré.
 And as the voice of the priest repeated the service of sorrow,
 Lo! with a mournful sound, like the voice of a vast congregation,
 Solemnly answered the sea, and mingled its roar with the dirges.
 ’T was the returning tide, that afar from the waste of the ocean,
 With the first dawn of the day, came heaving and hurrying landward.
 Then recommenced once more the stir and noise of embarking;
 And with the ebb of the tide the ships sailed out of the harbor,
 Leaving behind them the dead on the shore, and the village in ruins.

654

660

PART THE SECOND

I

MANY a weary year had passed since the burning of Grand-Pré,
 When on the falling tide the freighted vessels departed,
 Bearing a nation, with all its household gods, into exile,
 Exile without an end, and without an example in story.
 Far asunder, on separate coasts, the Acadians landed;
 Scattered were they, like flakes of snow, when the wind from the northeast,
 Strikes aslant through the fogs that darken the Banks of Newfoundland.
 Friendless, homeless, hopeless, they wandered from city to city,
 From the cold lakes of the North to sultry Southern savannas, —
 From the bleak shores of the sea to the lands where the Father of Waters
 Seizes the hills in his hands, and drags them down to the ocean,
 Deep in their sands to bury the scattered bones of the mammoth.
 Friends, they sought and homes; and many, despairing, heart-broken,
 Asked of the earth but a grave, and no longer a friend nor a fireside.
 Written their history stands on tablets of stone in the churchyards.
 Long among them was seen a maiden who waited and wandered,
 Lowly and meek in spirit, and patiently suffering all things,
 Fair was she and young: but, alas! before her extended,
 Dreary and vast and silent, the desert of life, with its pathway
 Marked by the graves of those who had sorrowed and suffered before her,
 Passions long extinguished, and hopes long dead and abandoned,
 As the emigrant’s way o’er the Western desert is marked by
 Camp-fires long consumed, and bones that bleach in the sunshine.
 Something there was in her life incomplete, imperfect, unfinished;
 As if a morning of June, with all its music and sunshine,
 Suddenly paused in the sky, and, fading, slowly descended
 Into the east again, from whence it late had arisen.
 Sometimes she lingered in towns, till, urged by the fever within her,
 Urged by a restless longing, the hunger and thirst of the spirit,

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She would commence again her endless search and endeavor ;
 Sometimes in churchyards strayed, and gazed on the crosses and tombstones,
 Sat by some nameless grave, and thought that perhaps in its bosom
 He was already at rest, and she longed to slumber beside him.
 Sometimes a rumor, a hearsay, an inarticulate whisper,
 Came with its airy hand to point and beckon her forward. 700
 Sometimes she spake with those who had seen her beloved and known him,
 But it was long ago, in some far-off place or forgotten.
 "Gabriel Lajeunesse!" they said ; "Oh yes! we have seen him.
 He was with Basil the blacksmith, and both have gone to the prairies ;
 Coureurs-des-Bois are they, and famous hunters and trappers."
 "Gabriel Lajeunesse!" said others ; "Oh yes! we have seen him.
 He is a Voyageur in the lowlands of Louisiana."
 Then would they say, "Dear child! why dream and wait for him longer ?
 Are there not other youths as fair as Gabriel ? others
 Who have hearts as tender and true, and spirits as loyal ? 710
 Here is Baptiste Leblanc, the notary's son, who has loved thee
 Many a tedious year; come, give him thy hand and be happy!
 Thou art too fair to be left to braid St. Catherine's tresses."
 Then would Evangeline answer, serenely but sadly, "I cannot!
 Whither my heart has gone, there follows my hand, and not elsewhere.
 For when the heart goes before, like a lamp, and illumines the pathway,
 Many things are made clear, that else lie hidden in darkness."
 Thereupon the priest, her friend and father-confessor,
 Said, with a smile, "O daughter! thy God thus speaketh within thee!
 Talk not of wasted affection, affection never was wasted ; 720
 If it enrich not the heart of another, its waters, returning
 Back to their springs, like the rain, shall fill them full of refreshment ;
 That which the fountain sends forth returns again to the fountain.
 Patience ; accomplish thy labor ; accomplish thy work of affection !
 Sorrow and silence are strong, and patient endurance is godlike.
 Therefore accomplish thy labor of love, till the heart is made godlike,
 Purified, strengthened, perfected, and rendered more worthy of heaven !"
 Cheered by the good man's words, Evangeline labored and waited.
 Still in her heart she heard the funeral dirge of the ocean,
 But with its sound there was mingled a voice that whispered, "Despair not!" 730
 Thus did that poor soul wander in want and cheerless discomfort,
 Bleeding, barefooted, over the shards and thorns of existence.
 Let me essay, O Muse! to follow the wanderer's footsteps ; —
 Not through each devious path, each changeful year of existence,
 But as a traveller follows a streamlet's course through the valley:
 Far from its margin at times, and seeing the gleam of its water
 Here and there, in some open space, and at intervals only ;
 Then drawing nearer its banks, through sylvan glooms that conceal it,
 Though he behold it not, he can hear its continuous murmur ;
 Happy, at length, if he find the spot where it reaches an outlet. 740

II

It was the month of May. Far down the Beautiful River,
 Past the Ohio shore and past the mouth of the Wabash.

Into the golden stream of the broad and swift Mississippi,
Floated a cumbrous boat, that was rowed by Acadian boatmen.
It was a band of exiles : a raft, as it were, from the shipwrecked
Nation, scattered along the coast, now floating together,
Bound by the bonds of a common belief and a common misfortune ;
Men and women and children, who, guided by hope or by hearsay,
Sought for their kith and their kin among the few-acred farmers
On the Acadian coast, and the prairies of fair Opelousas. 750
With them Evangeline went, and her guide, the Father Felician.
Onward o'er sunken sands, through a wilderness sombre with forests,
Day after day they glided adown the turbulent river ;
Night after night, by their blazing fires, encamped on its borders.
Now through rushing chutes, among green islands, where plumelike
Cotton-trees nodded their shadowy crests, they swept with the current,
Then emerged into broad lagoons, where silvery sand-bars
Lay in the stream, and along the wimpling waves of their margin,
Shining with snow-white plumes, large flocks of pelicans waded.
Level the landscape grew, and along the shores of the river, 760
Shaded by china-trees, in the midst of luxuriant gardens,
Stood the houses of planters, with negro-cabins and dove-cots.
They were approaching the region where reigns perpetual summer,
Where through the Golden Coast, and groves of orange and citron,
Sweeps with majestic curve the river away to the eastward.
They, too, swerved from their course ; and entering the Bayou of Plaquemine,
Soon were lost in a maze of sluggish and devious waters,
Which, like a network of steel, extended in every direction.
Over their heads the towering and tenebrous boughs of the cypress
Met in a dusky arch, and trailing mosses in mid-air 770
Waved like banners that hang on the walls of ancient cathedrals.
Deathlike the silence seemed, and unbroken, save by the herons
Home to their roosts in the cedar-trees returning at sunset,
Or by the owl, as he greeted the moon with demoniac laughter.
Lovely the moonlight was as it glanced and gleamed on the water,
Gleamed on the columns of cypress and cedar sustaining the arches,
Down through whose broken vaults it fell as through chinks in a ruin.
Dreamlike, and indistinct, and strange were all things around them ;
And o'er their spirits there came a feeling of wonder and sadness, —
Strange forebodings of ill, unseen and that cannot be compassed. 780
As, at the tramp of a horse's hoof on the turf of the prairies,
Far in advance are closed the leaves of the shrinking mimosa,
So, at the hoof-beats of fate, with sad forebodings of evil,
Shrinks and closes the heart, ere the stroke of doom has attained it.
But Evangeline's heart was sustained by a vision, that faintly
Floated before her eyes, and beckoned her on through the moonlight.
It was the thought of her brain that assumed the shape of a phantom.
Through those shadowy aisles had Gabriel wandered before her,
And every stroke of the oar now brought him nearer and nearer.

Then in his place, at the prow of the boat, rose one of the oarsmen,
And, as a signal sound, if others like them peradventure

" Under the boughs of Wachita willows, that grew by the margin,
Safely their boat was moored "

Sailed on those gloomy and midnight streams, blew a blast on his bugle.
Wild through the dark colonnades and corridors leafy the blast rang,
Breaking the seal of silence, and giving tongues to the forest.
Soundless above them the banners of moss just stirred to the music.
Multitudinous echoes awoke and died in the distance,
Over the watery floor, and beneath the reverberant branches ;
But not a voice replied ; no answer came from the darkness ,
And, when the echoes had ceased, like a sense of pain was the silence.
Then Evangeline slept ; but the boatmen rowed through the midnight, 800
Silent at times, then singing familiar Canadian boat-songs,
Such as they sang of old on their own Acadian rivers,
While through the night were heard the mysterious sounds of the desert,
Far off, — indistinct, — as of wave or wind in the forest,
Mixed with the whoop of the crane and the roar of the grim alligator.

Thus ere another noon they emerged from the shades ; and before them
Lay, in the golden sun, the lakes of the Atchafalaya.
Water-lilies in myriads rocked on the slight undulations
Made by the passing oars, and, resplendent in beauty, the lotus
Lifted her golden crown above the heads of the boatmen.
Faint was the air with the odorous breath of magnolia blossoms,
And with the heat of noon ; and numberless sylvan islands,
Fragrant and thickly embowered with blossoming hedges of roses,
Near to whose shores they glided along, invited to slumber.

Soon by the fairest of these their weary oars were suspended.
 Under the boughs of Wachita willows, that grew by the margin,
 Safely their boat was moored; and scattered about on the greensward,
 Tired with their midnight toil, the weary travellers slumbered.
 Over them vast and high extended the cope of a cedar.
 Swinging from its great arms, the trumpet-flower and the grapevine
 Hung their ladder of ropes aloft like the ladder of Jacob,
 On whose pendulous stairs the angels ascending, descending,
 Were the swift humming-birds, that flitted from blossom to blossom.
 Such was the vision Evangeline saw as she slumbered beneath it.
 Filled was her heart with love, and the dawn of an opening heaven
 Lighted her soul in sleep with the glory of regions celestial.

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Nearer, and ever nearer, among the numberless islands,
 Darted a light, swift boat, that sped away o'er the water,
 Urged on its course by the sinewy arms of hunters and trappers.
 Northward its prow was turned to the land of the bison and beaver.
 At the helm sat a youth, with countenance thoughtful and careworn.
 Dark and neglected locks overshadowed his brow, and a sadness
 Somewhat beyond his years on his face was legibly written.
 Gabriel was it, who, weary with waiting, unhappy and restless,
 Sought in the Western wilds oblivion of self and of sorrow.
 Swiftly they glided along, close under the lee of the island,
 But by the opposite bank, and behind a screen of palmettos,
 So that they saw not the boat, where it lay concealed in the willows;
 All undisturbed by the dash of their oars, and unseen, were the sleepers.
 Angel of God was there none to awaken the slumbering maiden.
 Swiftly they glided away, like the shade of a cloud on the prairie.
 After the sound of their oars on the tholes had died in the distance,
 As from a magic trance the sleepers awoke, and the maiden
 Said with a sigh to the friendly priest, "O Father Felician!
 Something says in my heart that near me Gabriel wanders.
 Is it a foolish dream, an idle and vague superstition?
 Or has an angel passed, and revealed the truth to my spirit?"
 Then, with a blush, she added, "Alas for my credulous fancy!
 Unto ears like thine such words as these have no meaning."
 But made answer the reverend man, and he smiled as he answered, —
 "Daughter, thy words are not idle; nor are they to me without meaning.
 Feeling is deep and still; and the word that floats on the surface
 Is as the tossing buoy, that betrays where the anchor is hidden.
 Therefore trust to thy heart, and to what the world calls illusions.
 Gabriel truly is near thee; for not far away to the southward,
 On the banks of the Têche, are the towns of St. Maur and St. Martin.
 There the long-wandering bride shall be given again to her bridegroom,
 There the long-absent pastor regain his flock and his sheepfold.
 Beautiful is the land, with its prairies and forests of fruit-trees;
 Under the feet a garden of flowers, and the bluest of heavens
 Bending above, and resting its dome on the walls of the forest.
 They who dwell there have named it the Eden of Louisiana!"

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With these words of cheer they arose and continued their journey.
Softly the evening came. The sun from the western horizon
Like a magician extended his golden wand o'er the landscape;
Twinkling vapors arose; and sky and water and forest
Seemed all on fire at the touch, and melted and mingled together.
Hanging between two skies, a cloud with edges of silver,
Floated the boat, with its dripping oars, on the motionless water.
Filled was Evangeline's heart with inexpressible sweetness.
Touched by the magic spell, the sacred fountains of feeling
Glowed with the light of love, as the skies and waters around her.
Then from a neighboring thicket the mocking-bird, wildest of singers,
Swinging aloft on a willow spray that hung o'er the water,
Shook from his little throat such floods of delirious music,
That the whole air and the woods and the waves seemed silent to listen.
Plaintive at first were the tones and sad: then soaring to madness
Seemed they to follow or guide the revel of frenzied Bacchantes.
Single notes were then heard, in sorrowful, low lamentation;
Till, having gathered them all, he flung them abroad in derision,
As when, after a storm, a gust of wind through the tree-tops
Shakes down the rattling rain in a crystal shower on the branches.
With such a prelude as this, and hearts that throbbed with emotion,
Slowly they entered the Têche, where it flows through the green Opelousas,
And, through the amber air, above the crest of the woodland,
Saw the column of smoke that arose from a neighboring dwelling; —
Sounds of a horn they heard, and the distant lowing of cattle.

III

Near to the bank of the river, o'ershadowed by oaks, from whose branches
Garlands of Spanish moss and of mystic mistletoe flaunted,
Such as the Druids cut down with golden hatchets at Yule-tide,
Stood, secluded and still, the house of the herdsman. A garden
Girded it round about with a belt of luxuriant blossoms,
Filling the air with fragrance. The house itself was of timbers
Hewn from the cypress-tree, and carefully fitted together.
Large and low was the roof; and on slender columns supported,
Rose-wreathed, vine-encircled, a broad and spacious veranda,
Haunt of the humming-bird and the bee, extended around it.
At each end of the house, amid the flowers of the garden,
Stationed the dove-cots were, as love's perpetual symbol,
Scenes of endless wooing, and endless contentions of rivals.
Silence reigned o'er the place. The line of shadow and sunshine
Ran near the tops of the trees; but the house itself was in shadow,
And from its chimney-top, ascending and slowly expanding
Into the evening air, a thin blue column of smoke rose.
In the rear of the house, from the garden gate, ran a pathway
Through the great groves of oak to the skirts of the limitless prairie,
Into whose sea of flowers the sun was slowly descending.
Full in his track of light, like ships with shadowy canvas
Hanging loose from their spars in a motionless calm in the tropics,
Stood a cluster of trees, with tangled cordage of grape-vines.

Just where the woodlands met the flowery surf of the prairie,
 Mounted upon his horse, with Spanish saddle and stirrups,
 Sat a herdsman, arrayed in gaiters and doublet of deerskin.
 Broad and brown was the face that from under the Spanish sombrero
 Gazed on the peaceful scene, with the lordly look of its master.
 Round about him were numberless herds of kine, that were grazing
 Quietly in the meadows, and breathing the vapory freshness
 That uprose from the river, and spread itself over the landscape.
 Slowly lifting the horn that hung at his side, and expanding
 Fully his broad, deep chest, he blew a blast, that resounded 920
 Wildly and sweet and far, through the still damp air of the evening.
 Suddenly out of the grass the long white horns of the cattle
 Rose like flakes of foam on the adverse currents of ocean.
 Silent a moment they gazed, then bellowing rushed o'er the prairie,
 And the whole mass became a cloud, a shade in the distance.
 Then, as the herdsman turned to the house, through the gate of the garden
 Saw he the forms of the priest and the maiden advancing to meet him.
 Suddenly down from his horse he sprang in amazement, and forward
 Rushed with extended arms and exclamations of wonder ;
 When they beheld his face, they recognized Basil the blacksmith. 930
 Hearty his welcome was, as he led his guests to the garden.
 There in an arbor of roses with endless question and answer
 Gave they vent to their hearts, and renewed their friendly embraces,
 Laughing and weeping by turns, or sitting silent and thoughtful.
 Thoughtful, for Gabriel came not ; and now dark doubts and misgivings
 Stole o'er the maiden's heart ; and Basil, somewhat embarrassed,
 Broke the silence and said, " If you came by the Atchafalaya,
 How have you nowhere encountered my Gabriel's boat on the bayous ? "
 Over Evangeline's face at the words of Basil a shade passed.
 Tears came into her eyes, and she said, with a tremulous accent, 940
 " Gone ? is Gabriel gone ? " and, concealing her face on his shoulder,
 All her o'erburdened heart gave way, and she wept and lamented.
 Then the good Basil said, — and his voice grew blithe as he said it, —
 " Be of good cheer, my child ; it is only to-day he departed.
 Foolish boy ! he has left me alone with my herds and my horses.
 Moody and restless grown, and tried and troubled, his spirit
 Could no longer endure the calm of this quiet existence,
 Thinking ever of thee, uncertain and sorrowful ever,
 Ever silent, or speaking only of thee and his troubles,
 He at length had become so tedious to men and to maidens, 950
 Tedious even to me, that at length I bethought me, and sent him
 Unto the town of Adayes to trade for mules with the Spaniards.
 Thence he will follow the Indian trails to the Ozark Mountains,
 Hunting for furs in the forests, on rivers trapping the beaver.
 Therefore be of good cheer ; we will follow the fugitive lover ;
 He is not far on his way, and the Fates and the streams are against him.
 Up and away to-morrow, and through the red dew of the morning
 We will follow him fast, and bring him back to his prison."

Then glad voices were heard, and up from the banks of the river,
 Borne aloft on his comrades' arms, came Michael the fiddler. 960

Long under Basil's roof had he lived like a god on Olympus,
Having no other care than dispensing music to mortals.
Far renowned was he for his silver locks and his fiddle.
"Long live Michael," they cried, "our brave Acadian minstrel!"
As they bore him aloft in triumphal procession; and straightway
Father Felician advanced with Evangeline, greeting the old man
Kindly and oft, and recalling the past, while Basil, enraptured,

"Be of good cheer, my child;
It is only to-day he departed"

Hailed with hilarious joy his old companions and gossips,
Laughing loud and long, and embracing mothers and daughters.
Much they marvelled to see the wealth of the ci devant blacksmith,
All his domains and his herds, and his patriarchal demeanor;
Much they marvelled to hear his tales of the soil and the climate,
And of the prairies, whose numberless herds were his who would take them;
Each one thought in his heart, that he, too, would go and do likewise.
Thus they ascended the steps, and crossing the breezy veranda,
Entered the hall of the house, where already the supper of Basil
Waited his late return; and they rested and feasted together.

Over the joyous feast the sudden darkness descended.
 All was silent without, and, illuming the landscape with silver,
 Fair rose the dewy moon and the myriad stars; but within doors, 980
 Brighter than these, shone the faces of friends in the glimmering lamplight.
 Then from his station aloft, at the head of the table, the herdsman
 Poured forth his heart and his wine together in endless profusion.
 Lighting his pipe, that was filled with sweet Natchitoches tobacco,
 Thus he spake to his guests, who listened, and smiled as they listened: —
 "Welcome once more, my friends, who long have been friendless and home-
 less,

Welcome once more to a home, that is better perchance than the old one!
 Here no hungry winter congeals our blood like the rivers;
 Here no stony ground provokes the wrath of the farmer.
 Smoothly the ploughshare runs through the soil, as a keel through the
 water. 990

All the year round the orange-groves are in blossom; and grass grows
 More in a single night than a whole Canadian summer.

Here, too, numberless herds run wild and unclaimed in the prairies;

Here, too, lands may be had for the asking, and forests of timber

With a few blows of the axe are hewn and framed into houses.

After your houses are built, and your fields are yellow with harvests,

No King George of England shall drive you away from your homesteads,
 Burning your dwellings and barns, and stealing your farms and your cattle."

Speaking these words, he blew a wrathful cloud from his nostrils,

While his huge, brown hand came thundering down on the table, 1000

So that the guests all started; and Father Felician, astounded,

Suddenly paused, with a pinch of snuff half-way to his nostrils.

But the brave Basil resumed, and his words were milder and gayer: —

"Only beware of the fever, my friends, beware of the fever!

For it is not like that of our cold Acadian climate,

Cured by wearing a spider hung round one's neck in a nutshell!"

Then there were voices heard at the door, and footsteps approaching

Sounded upon the stairs and the floor of the breezy veranda.

It was the neighboring Creoles and small Acadian planters,

Who had been summoned all to the house of Basil the Herdsman. 1010

Merry the meeting was of ancient comrades and neighbors:

Friend clasped friend in his arms; and they who before were as strangers,

Meeting in exile, became straightway as friends to each other,

Drawn by the gentle bond of a common country together.

But in the neighboring hall a strain of music, proceeding

From the accordant strings of Michael's melodious fiddle,

Broke up all further speech. Away, like children delighted,

All things forgotten beside, they gave themselves to the maddening

Whirl of the giddy dance, as it swept and swayed to the music,

Dreamlike, with beaming eyes and the rush of fluttering garments. 1020

Meanwhile, apart, at the head of the hall, the priest and the herdsman
 Sat, conversing together of past and present and future;
 While Evangeline stood like one entranced, for within her
 Olden memories rose, and loud in the midst of the music

Heard she the sound of the sea, and an irrepressible sadness
Came o'er her heart, and unseen she stole forth into the garden.
Beautiful was the night. Behind the black wall of the forest,
Tipping its summit with silver, arose the moon. On the river
Fell here and there through the branches a tremulous gleam of the moonlight,
Like the sweet thoughts of love on a darkened and devious spirit. 1034
Nearer and round about her, the manifold flowers of the garden
Poured out their souls in odors, that were their prayers and confessions
Unto the night, as it went its way, like a silent Carthusian.
Fuller of fragrance than they, and as heavy with shadows and night-dews.
Hung the heart of the maiden. The calm and the magical moonlight
Seemed to inundate her soul with indefinable longings,
As, through the garden-gate, and beneath the shade of the oak-trees,
Passed she along the path to the edge of the measureless prairie.
Silent it lay, with a silvery haze upon it, and fire-flies
Gleamed and floated away in mingled and infinite numbers. 1040
Over her head the stars, the thoughts of God in the heavens,
Shone on the eyes of man, who had ceased to marvel and worship,
Save when a blazing comet was seen on the walls of that temple,
As if a hand had appeared and written upon them, "Upharsin."
And the soul of the maiden, between the stars and the fire-flies,
Wandered alone, and she cried, O Gabriel! O my beloved!
Art thou so near unto me, and yet I cannot behold thee?
Art thou so near unto me, and yet thy voice does not reach me?
Ah! how often thy feet have trod this path to the prairie!
Ah! how often thine eyes have looked on the woodlands around me! 1054
Ah! how often beneath this oak, returning from labor,
Thou hast lain down to rest, and to dream of me in thy slumbers!
When shall these eyes behold, these arms be folded about thee?"
Loud and sudden and near the notes of a whippoorwill sounded
Like a flute in the woods; and anon, through the neighboring thickets,
Farther and farther away it floated and dropped into silence.
"Patience!" whispered the oaks from oracular caverns of darkness:
And, from the moonlit meadow, a sigh responded, "To-morrow!"

Bright rose the sun next day; and all the flowers of the garden
Bathed his shining feet with their tears, and anointed his tresses 1064
With the delicious balm that they bore in their vases of crystal.
"Farewell!" said the priest, as he stood at the shadowy threshold;
'See that you bring us the Prodigal Son from his fasting and famine,
And, too, the Foolish Virgin, who slept when the bridegroom was coming."

"Farewell!" answered the maiden, and, smiling, with Basil descended
Down to the river's brink, where the boatmen already were waiting.
Thus beginning their journey with morning, and sunshine, and gladness,
Swiftly they followed the flight of him who was speeding before them,
Blown by the blast of fate like a dead leaf over the desert.
Not that day, nor the next, nor yet the day that succeeded, 1070
Found they the trace of his course, in lake or forest or river,
Nor, after many days, had they found him; but vague and uncertain

Rumors alone were their guides through a wild and desolate country ;
 Till, at the little inn of the Spanish town of Adayes,
 Weary and worn, they alighted, and learned from the garrulous landlord
 That on the day before, with horses and guides and companions,
 Gabriel left the village, and took the road of the prairies.

IV

Far in the West there lies a desert land, where the mountains
 Lift, through perpetual snows, their lofty and luminous summits.
 Down from their jagged, deep ravines, where the gorge, like a gateway, 1. 2
 Opens a passage rude to the wheels of the emigrant's wagon,
 Westward the Oregon flows and the Walleway and Owyhee.
 Eastward, with devious course, among the Wind-river Mountains,
 Through the Sweet-water Valley precipitate leaps the Nebraska ;
 And to the south, from Fontaine-qui-bout and the Spanish sierras,
 Fretted with sands and rocks, and swept by the wind of the desert,
 Numberless torrents, with ceaseless sound, descend to the ocean,
 Like the great chords of a harp, in loud and solemn vibrations.
 Spreading between these streams are the wondrous, beautiful prairies ;
 Billowy bays of grass ever rolling in shadow and sunshine. 1090
 Bright with luxuriant clusters of roses and purple amorphas.
 Over them wandered the buffalo herds, and the elk and the roebuck ;
 Over them wandered the wolves, and herds of riderless horses ;
 Fires that blast and blight, and winds that are weary with travel ;
 Over them wander the scattered tribes of Ishmael's children,
 Staining the desert with blood ; and above their terrible war-trails
 Circles and sails aloft, on pinions majestic, the vulture,
 Like the implacable soul of a chieftain slaughtered in battle,
 By invisible stairs ascending and scaling the heavens.
 Here and there rise smokes from the camps of these savage marauders ; 1100
 Here and there rise groves from the margins of swift-running rivers ;
 And the grim, taciturn bear, the anchorite monk of the desert,
 Climbs down their dark ravines to dig for roots by the brook-side,
 And over all is the sky, the clear and crystalline heaven,
 Like the protecting hand of God inverted above them.

Into this wonderful land, at the base of the Ozark Mountains,
 Gabriel far had entered, with hunters and trappers behind him.
 Day after day, with their Indian guides, the maiden and Basil
 Followed his flying steps, and thought each day to o'ertake him.
 Sometimes they saw, or thought they saw, the smoke of his camp-fire 1110
 Rise in the morning air from the distant plain ; but at nightfall,
 When they had reached the place they found only embers and ashes.
 And, though their hearts were sad at times and their bodies were weary,
 Hope still guided them on, as the magic Fata Morgana
 Showed them her lakes of light, that retreated and vanished before them.

Once, as they sat by their evening fire, there silently entered
 Into their little camp an Indian woman, whose features
 Wore deep traces of sorrow, and patience as great as her sorrow.
 She was a Shawnee woman returning home to her people,

From the far-off hunting grounds of the cruel Camanches, 1120
Where her Canadian husband, a Coureur-des-Bois, had been murdered.
Touched were their hearts at her story, and warmest and friendliest welcome
Gave they, with words of cheer, and she sat and feasted among them
On the buffalo-meat and the venison cooked on the embers.
But when their meal was done, and Basil and all his companions,
Worn with the long day's march and the chase of the deer and the bison,
Stretched themselves on the ground, and slept where the quivering fire-light
Flashed on their swarthy cheeks, and their forms wrapped up in their blankets,
Then at the door of Evangeline's tent she sat and repeated
Slowly, with soft, low voice, and the charm of her Indian accent, 1130
All the tale of her love, with its pleasures, and pains, and reverses.
Much Evangeline wept at the tale, and to know that another
Hapless heart like her own had loved and had been disappointed.
Moved to the depths of her soul by pity and woman's compassion,
Yet in her sorrow pleased that one who had suffered was near her
She in turn related her love and all its disasters.
Mute with wonder the Shawnee sat, and when she had ended

"They found only embers and ashes"

Still was mute; but at length, as if a mysterious horror
Passed through her brain, she spake, and repeated the tale of the Mowis;
Mowis, the bridegroom of snow, who won and wedded a maiden, 1140
But, when the morning came, arose and passed from the wigwam,
Fading and melting away and dissolving into the sunshine,

S. J. T. J.

Till she beheld him no more, though she followed far into the forest.
 Then, in those sweet, low tones, that seemed like a weird incantation,
 Told she the tale of the fair Lilinau, who was wooed by a phantom,
 That through the pines o'er her father's lodge, in the hush of the twilight,
 Breathed like the evening wind, and whispered love to the maiden,
 Till she followed his green and waving plume through the forest,
 And nevermore returned, nor was seen again by her people.
 Silent with wonder and strange surprise, Evangeline listened 1150
 To the soft flow of her magical words, till the region around her
 Seemed like enchanted ground, and her swarthy guest the enchantress.
 Slowly over the tops of the Ozark Mountains the moon rose,
 Lighting the little tent, and with a mysterious splendor
 Touching the sombre leaves, and embracing and filling the woodland.
 With a delicious sound the brook rushed by, and the branches
 Swayed and sighed overhead in scarcely audible whispers.
 Filled with the thoughts of love was Evangeline's heart, but a secret
 Subtile sense crept in of pain and indefinite terror,
 As the cold, poisonous snake creeps into the nest of the swallow. 1160
 It was no earthly fear. A breath from the region of spirits
 Seemed to float in the air of night : and she felt for a moment
 That, like the Indian maid, she, too, was pursuing a phantom.
 With this thought she slept, and the fear and the phantom had vanished.

Early upon the morrow the march was resumed ; and the Shawnee
 Said, as they journeyed along, " On the western slope of these mountains
 Dwells in his little village the Black Robe chief of the Mission.
 Much he teaches the people, and tells them of Mary and Jesus.
 Loud laugh their hearts with joy, and weep with pain, as they hear him."
 Then, with a sudden and secret emotion, Evangeline answered, 1170
 " Let us go to the Mission, for there good tidings await us ! "
 Thither they turned their steeds ; and behind a spur of the mountains,
 Just as the sun went down, they heard a murmur of voices,
 And in a meadow green and broad, by the bank of a river,
 Saw the tents of the Christians, the tents of the Jesuit Mission.
 Under a towering oak, that stood in the midst of the village,
 Knelt the Black Robe chief with his children. A crucifix fastened
 High on the trunk of the tree, and overshadowed by grapevines,
 Looked with its agonized face on the multitude kneeling beneath it.
 This was their rural chapel. Aloft, through the intricate arches 1180
 Of its aerial roof, arose the chant of their vespers,
 Mingling its notes with the soft susurrus and sighs of the branches.
 Silent, with heads uncovered, the travellers, nearer approaching,
 Knelt on the swarded floor, and joined in the evening devotions.
 But when the service was done, and the benediction had fallen
 Forth from the hands of the priest, like seed from the hands of the sower,
 Slowly the reverend man advanced to the strangers, and bade them
 Welcome ; and when they replied, he smiled with benignant expression,
 Hearing the homelike sounds of his mother-tongue in the forest,
 And, with words of kindness, conducted them into his wigwam. 1190
 There upon mats and skins they reposed, and on cakes of the maize-ear

Feasted, and slaked their thirst from the water-gourd of the teacher.
 Soon was their story told; and the priest with solemnity answered:—
 “Not six suns have risen and set since Gabriel, seated
 On this mat by my side, where now the maiden reposes,
 Told me this same sad tale; then arose and continued his journey!”
 Soft was the voice of the priest, and he spake with an accent of kindness;
 But on Evangeline’s heart fell his words as in winter the snow-flakes
 Fall into some lone nest from which the birds have departed.
 “Far to the north he has gone,” continued the priest: “but in autumn,
 When the chase is done, will return again to the Mission.”
 Then Evangeline said, and her voice was meek and submissive,
 “Let me remain with thee, for my soul is sad and afflicted.”
 So seemed it wise and well unto all; and betimes on the morrow,
 Mounting his Mexican steed, with his Indian guides and companions,
 Homeward Basil returned, and Evangeline stayed at the Mission.

1200

Slowly, slowly, slowly the days succeeded each other, —
 Days and weeks and months; and the fields of maize that were springing
 Green from the ground when a stranger she came, now waving above her,
 Lifted their slender shafts, with leaves interlacing, and forming
 Cloisters for mendicant crows and granaries pillaged by squirrels.
 Then in the golden weather the maize was husked, and the maidens
 Blushed at each blood-red ear, for that betokened a lover,
 But at the crooked laughed, and called it a thief in the corn-field.
 Even the blood-red ear to Evangeline brought not her lover.
 “Patience!” the priest would say; “have faith, and thy prayer will be answered!”
 Look at this vigorous plant that lifts its head from the meadow,
 See how its leaves are turned to the north, as true as the magnet;
 This is the compass-flower, that the finger of God has planted
 Here in the houseless wild, to direct the traveller’s journey
 Over the sea-like, pathless, limitless waste of the desert.
 Such in the soul of man is faith. The blossoms of passion,
 Gay and luxuriant flowers, are brighter and fuller of fragrance,
 But they beguile us, and lead us astray, and their odor is deadly.
 Only this humble plant can guide us here, and hereafter
 Crown us with asphodel flowers, that are wet with the dews of nepenthe.”

1210

1220

So came the autumn, and passed, and the winter, — yet Gabriel came not;
 Blossomed the opening spring, and the notes of the robin and bluebird
 Sounded sweet upon wold and in wood, yet Gabriel came not.
 But on the breath of the summer winds a rumor was wafted
 Sweeter than song of bird, or hue or odor of blossom.
 Far to the north and east, it said, in the Michigan forests,
 Gabriel had his lodge by the banks of the Saginaw River.
 And, with returning guides, that sought the lakes of St. Lawrence,
 Saying a sad farewell, Evangeline went from the Mission.
 When over weary ways, by long and perilous marches,
 She had attained at length the depths of the Michigan forests
 Found she the hunter’s lodge deserted and fallen to ruin!

1230

"Found she the hunter's lodge deserted and fallen to ruin!"

Thus did the long sad years glide on, and in seasons and places
 Divers and distant far was seen the wandering maiden; —
 Now in the Tents of Grace of the meek Moravian Missions,
 Now in the noisy camps and the battlefields of the army,
 Now in secluded hamlets in towns and populous cities.
 Like a phantom she came, and passed away unremembered.
 Fair was she and young, when in hope began the long journey;
 Faded was she and old, when in disappointment it ended.
 Each succeeding year stole something away from her beauty,
 Leaving behind it, broader and deeper, the gloom and the shadow.
 Then there appeared and spread faint streaks of gray o'er her forehead,
 Dawn of another life, that broke o'er her earthly horizon,
 As in the eastern sky the first faint streaks of the morning.

1248

1250

V

In that delightful land which is washed by the Delaware waters,
 Guarding in sylvan shades the name of Penn the apostle,
 Stands on the banks of its beautiful stream the city he founded.
 There all the air is balm, and the peach is the emblem of beauty,
 And the streets still reëcho the names of the trees of the forest,
 As if they fain would appease the Dryads whose haunts they molested.
 There from the troubled sea had Evangeline landed, an exile,
 Finding among the children of Penn a home and a country.
 There old René Leblanc had died; and when he departed,
 Saw at his side only one of all his hundred descendants.
 Something at least there was in the friendly streets of the city,

1260

Something that spake to her heart, and made her no longer a stranger ;
 And her ear was pleased with the Thee and Thou of the Quakers,
 For it recalled the past, the old Acadian country,
 Where all men were equal, and all were brothers and sisters.
 So, when the fruitless search, the disappointed endeavor,
 Ended, to recommence no more upon earth, uncomplaining,
 Thither, as leaves to the light, were turned her thoughts and her footsteps.
 As from the mountain's top the rainy mists of the morning 1270
 Roll away, and afar we behold the landscape below us,
 Sun-illuminated, with shining rivers and cities and hamlets,
 So fell the mists from her mind, and she saw the world far below her,
 Dark no longer, but all illumined with love ; and the pathway
 Which she had climbed so far, lying smooth and fair in the distance.
 Gabriel was not forgotten. Within her heart was his image,
 Clothed in the beauty of love and youth, as last she beheld him,
 Only more beautiful made by his death-like silence and absence.
 Into her thoughts of him time entered not, for it was not.
 Over him years had no power ; he was not changed, but transfigured ; 1280
 He had become to her heart as one who is dead, and not absent ;
 Patience and abnegation of self, and devotion to others,
 This was the lesson a life of trial and sorrow had taught her.
 So was her love diffused, but, like to some odorous spices,
 Suffered no waste nor loss, though filling the air with aroma.
 Other hope had she none, nor wish in life, but to follow
 Meekly, with reverent steps, the sacred feet of her Saviour.
 Thus many years she lived as a Sister of Mercy ; frequenting
 Lonely and wretched roofs in the crowded lanes of the city,
 Where distress and want concealed themselves from the sunlight, 1290
 Where disease and sorrow in garrets languished neglected.
 Night after night, when the world was asleep, as the watchman repeated
 Loud, through the gusty streets, that all was well in the city,
 High at some lonely window he saw the light of her taper.
 Day after day, in the gray of the dawn, as slow through the suburbs
 Plodded the German farmer, with flowers and fruits for the market,
 Met he that meek, pale face, returning home from its watchings.

Then it came to pass that a pestilence fell on the city,
 Presaged by wondrous signs, and mostly by flocks of wild pigeons,
 Darkening the sun in their flight, with naught in their craws but an acorn. 1300
 And, as the tides of the sea arise in the month of September,
 Flooding some silver stream, till it spreads to a lake in the meadow,
 So death flooded life, and, o'erflowing its natural margin
 Spread to a brackish lake the silver stream of existence.
 Wealth had no power to bribe, nor beauty to charm, the oppressor ;
 But all perished alike beneath the scourge of his anger ; —
 Only, alas ! the poor, who had neither friends nor attendants,
 Crept away to die in the almshouse, home of the homeless.
 Then in the suburbs it stood, in the midst of meadows and woodlands ; —
 Now the city surrounds it ; but still, with its gateway and wicket 1310
 Meek, in the midst of splendor, its humble walls seemed to echo

Softly the words of the Lord : "The poor ye always have with you."
 Thither, by night and by day, came the Sister of Mercy. The dying
 Looked up into her face, and thought, indeed, to behold there
 Gleams of celestial light encircle her forehead with splendor,
 Such as the artist paints o'er the brows of saints and apostles,
 Or such as hangs by night o'er a city seen at a distance.
 Unto their eyes it seemed the lamps of the city celestial,
 Into whose shining gates erelong their spirits would enter.

Thus, on a Sabbath morn, through the streets, deserted and silent, 132x
 Wending her quiet way, she entered the door of the almshouse.
 Sweet on the summer air was the odor of flowers in the garden;
 And she paused on her way to gather the fairest among them,
 That the dying once more might rejoice in their fragrance and beauty.
 Then, as she mounted the stairs to the corridors, cooled by the east-wind,
 Distant and soft on her ear fell the chimes from the belfry of Christ Church
 While, intermingled with these, across the meadows were wafted
 Sounds of psalms, that were sung by the Swedes in their church at Wicaco.
 Soft as descending wings fell the calm of the hour on her spirit :
 (Something within her said, "At length thy trials are ended ;") 133x
 And, with light in her looks, she entered the chambers of sickness.
 Noiselessly moved about the assiduous, careful attendants,
 Moistening the feverish lip, and the aching brow, and in silence
 Closing the sightless eyes of the dead, and concealing their faces,
 Where on their pallets they lay, like drifts of snow by the roadside.
 Many a languid head, upraised as Evangeline entered,
 Turned on its pillow of pain to gaze while she passed, for her presence
 Fell on their hearts like a ray of the sun on the walls of a prison.
 And, as she looked around, she saw how Death, the consoler,
 Laying his hand upon many a heart, had healed it forever. 134x
 Many familiar forms had disappeared in the night time ;
 Vacant their places were, or filled already by strangers.

Suddenly, as if arrested by fear or a feeling of wonder,
 Still she stood, with her colorless lips apart, while a shudder
 Ran through her frame, and, forgotten, the flowerets dropped from her fingers,
 And from her eyes and cheeks the light and bloom of the morning.
 Then there escaped from her lips a cry of such terrible anguish,
 That the dying heard it, and started up from their pillows.
 On the pallet before her was stretched the form of an old man.
 Long, and thin, and gray were the locks that shaded his temples; 135x
 But, as he lay in the morning light, his face for a moment
 Seemed to assume once more the forms of its earlier manhood ;
 So are wont to be changed the faces of those who are dying.
 Hot and red on his lips still burned the flush of the fever,
 As if life, like the Hebrew, with blood had besprinkled its portals,
 That the Angel of Death might see the sign, and pass over.
 Motionless, senseless, dying, he lay, and his spirit exhausted
 Seemed to be sinking down through infinite depths in the darkness,
 Darkness of slumber and death, forever sinking and sinking.

"Vainly he strove to whisper her name"

Then through those realms of shade, in multiplied reverberations,
Heard he that cry of pain, and through the hush that succeeded
Whispered a gentle voice, in accents tender and saint-like,
"Gabriel! O my beloved!" and died away into silence. 136c

Then he beheld, in a dream, once more the home of his childhood;
Green Acadian meadows, with sylvan rivers among them,
Village, and mountain, and woodlands; and, walking under their shadow,
As in the days of her youth, Evangeline rose in his vision.
Tears came into his eyes; and as slowly he lifted his eyelids,
Vanished the vision away, but Evangeline knelt by his bedside.
Vainly he strove to whisper her name, for the accents unuttered 137a
Died on his lips, and their motion revealed what his tongue would have
spoken.

Vainly he strove to rise; and Evangeline, kneeling beside him,
Kissed his dying lips, and laid his head on her bosom.
Sweet was the light of his eyes; but it suddenly sank into darkness,
As when a lamp is blown out by a gust of wind at a casement.

All was ended now, the hope, and the fear, and the sorrow,
All the aching of heart, the restless, unsatisfied longing,
All the dull, deep pain, and constant anguish of patience!
And, as she pressed once more the lifeless head to her bosom,
Meekly she bowed her own, and murmured, "Father, I thank thee!"

1380

Still stands the forest primeval ; but far away from its shadow
Side by side, in their nameless graves, the lovers are sleeping.
Under the humble walls of the little Catholic churchyard,
In the heart of the city, they lie, unknown and unnoticed.
Daily the tides of life go ebbing and flowing beside them,
Thousands of throbbing hearts, where theirs are at rest and forever,
Thousands of aching brains, where theirs no longer are busy,
Thousands of toiling hands, where theirs have ceased from their labors,
Thousands of weary feet, where theirs have completed their journey !

Still stands the forest primeval ; but under the shade of its branches
Dwells another race, with other customs and language.
Only along the shore of the mournful and misty Atlantic
Linger a few Acadian peasants, whose fathers from exile
Wandered back to their native land to die in its bosom.
In the fisherman's cot the wheel and the loom are still busy ;
Maidens still wear their Norman caps and their kirtles of homespun,
And by the evening fire repeat Evangeline's story,
While from its rocky caverns the deep-voiced, neighboring ocean
Speaks, and in accents disconsolate answers the wail of the forest.

1390

"He saw the form of his promised bride"

THE SEASIDE AND THE FIRESIDE

DEDICATION

As one who, walking in the twilight
gloom,
Hears round about him voices as it
darkens,
And seeing not the forms from which
they come,
Pauses from time to time, and turns
and hearkens ;
So walking here in twilight, O my
friend!

I hear your voices, softened by the
distance,
And pause, and turn to listen, as each
sends

His words of friendship, comfort,
and assistance.

If any thought of mine, or sung or told,
Has ever given delight or consola-
tion,

Ye have repaid me back a thousand-
fold,

By every friendly sign and saluta-
tion

Thanks for the sympathies that ye
have shown!

Thanks for each kindly word, each
silent token,
That teaches me, when seeming most
alone,
Friends are around us, though no
word be spoken.

Kind messages, that pass from land to
land ;
Kind letters, that betray the heart's
deep history,
In which we feel the pressure of a
hand, --
One touch of fire, — and all the rest
is mystery! 20

The pleasant books, that silently
among
Our household treasures take famil-
iar places,
And are to us as if a living tongue
Spoke from the printed leaves or
pictured faces!

Perhaps on earth I never shall behold,
With eye of sense, your outward
form and semblance ;
Therefore to me ye never will grow
old,
But live forever young in my re-
membrance!

Never grow old, nor change, nor pass
away!
Your gentle voices will flow on for-
ever, 30
When life grows bare and tarnished
with decay,
As through a leafless landscape
flows a river.

Not chance of birth or place has made
us friends,
Being oftentimes of different
tongues and nations,
But the endeavor for the selfsame
ends,
With the same hopes, and fears, and
aspirations.

Therefore I hope to join your seaside
walk,
Saddened, and mostly silent, with
emotion;

Not interrupting with intrusive talk
The grand, majestic symphonies of
ocean. 40

Therefore I hope, as no unwelcome
guest,
At your warm fireside, when the
lamps are lighted,
To have my place reserved among the
rest,
Nor stand as one unsought and un-
invited!

BY THE SEASIDE

THE BUILDING OF THE SHIP

“BUILD me straight, O worthy Mas-
ter!
Stanch and strong, a goodly vessel,
That shall laugh at all disaster,
And with wave and whirlwind
wrestle!”

The merchant's word
Delighted the Master heard ;
For his heart was in his work, and the
heart
Giveth grace unto every Art.
A quiet smile played round his lips,
As the eddies and dimples of the tide 10
Play round the bows of ships,
That steadily at anchor ride.
And with a voice that was full of glee,
He answered, “Erelong we will
launch
A vessel as goodly, and strong, and
stanch,
As ever weathered a wintry sea!”
And first with nicest skill and art,
Perfect and finished in every part,
A little model the Master wrought,
Which should be to the larger plan 20
What the child is to the man,
Its counterpart in miniature ;
That with a hand more swift and sure
The greater labor might be brought
To answer to his inward thought.
And as he labored, his mind ran o'er
The various ships that were built of
yore,
And above them all, and strangest of
all
Towered the Great Harry, crank and
tall,

Whose picture was hanging on the
wall, 30

With bows and stern raised high in air,
And balconies hanging here and there,
And signal lanterns and flags afloat,
And eight round towers, like those
that frown

From some old castle, looking down
Upon the drawbridge and the moat.
And he said with a smile, "Our ship,
I wis,

Shall be of another form than this!"
It was of another form, indeed;
Built for freight, and yet for speed, 40
A beautiful and gallant craft;
Broad in the beam, that the stress of
the blast,

Pressing down upon sail and mast,
Might not the sharp bows overwhelm;
Broad in the beam, but sloping aft
With graceful curve and slow degrees,
That she might be docile to the helm,
And that the currents of parted seas,
Closing behind, with mighty force,
Might aid and not impede her course.

In the ship-yard stood the Master, 51
With the model of the vessel,
That should laugh at all disaster,
And with wave and whirlwind
wrestle!

Covering many a rood of ground,
Lay the timber piled around;
Timber of chestnut, and elm, and oak,
And scattered here and there, with
these,

The knarred and crooked cedar knees;
Brought from regions far away, 60
From Pascagoula's sunny bay,
And the banks of the roaring Roa-
noke!

Ah! what a wondrous thing it is
To note how many wheels of toil
One thought, one word, can set in
motion!

There's not a ship that sails the ocean,
But every climate, every soil,
Must bring its tribute, great or small,
And help to build the wooden wall!

The sun was rising o'er the sea, 70
And long the level shadows lay,
As if they, too, the beams would be
Of some great, airy argosy,
Framed and launched in a single day.

That silent architect, the sun,
Had hewn and laid them every one,
Ere the work of man was yet begun.
Beside the Master, when he spoke,
A youth, against an anchor leaning,
Listened, to catch his slightest mean-
ing. 80

Only the long waves, as they broke
In ripples on the pebbly beach,
Interrupted the old man's speech.

Beautiful they were, in sooth,
The old man and the fiery youth!
The old man, in whose busy brain
Many a ship that sailed the main
Was modelled o'er and o'er again;—
The fiery youth, who was to be
The heir of his dexterity, 90
The heir of his house, and his daugh-
ter's hand,

When he had built and launched from
land

What the elder head had planned.

"Thus," said he, "will we build this
ship!

Lay square the blocks upon the slip,
And follow well this plan of mine.
Choose the timbers with greatest care;
Of all that is unsound beware;
For only what is sound and strong
To this vessel shall belong. 100

Cedar of Maine and Georgia pine
Here together shall combine.
A goodly frame, and a goodly fame,
And the UNION be her name!
For the day that gives her to the sea
Shall give my daughter unto thee!"

The Master's word
Enraptured the young man heard;
And as he turned his face aside,
With a look of joy and a thrill of
pride 110

Standing before
Her father's door,
He saw the form of his promised
bride.

The sun shone on her golden hair,
And her cheek was glowing fresh and
fair,

With the breath of morn and the soft
sea air.

Like a beauteous barge was she,
Still at rest on the sandy beach,
Just beyond the billow's reach;

But he 120
Was the restless, seething, stormy sea!
Ah, how skilful grows the hand
That obeyeth Love's command!
It is the heart, and not the brain,
That to the highest doth attain,
And he who followeth Love's behest
Far excelleth all the rest!

Thus with the rising of the sun
Was the noble task begun,
And soon throughout the ship-yard's
 bounds 130
Were heard the intermingled sounds
Of axes and of mallets, plied
With vigorous arms on every side ;
Plied so deftly and so well,
That, ere the shadows of evening fell,
The keel of oak for a noble ship,
Scarfed and bolted, straight and
 strong,
Was lying ready, and stretched along
The blocks, well placed upon the slip.
Happy, thrice happy, every one 140
Who sees his labor well begun,
And not perplexed and multiplied,
By idly waiting for time and tide!

And when the hot, long day was o'er,
The young man at the Master's door
Sat with the maiden calm and still,
And within the porch, a little more
Removed beyond the evening chill,
The father sat, and told them tales
Of wrecks in the great September
gales, 150
Of pirates coasting the Spanish Main,
And ships that never came back again,
The chance and change of a sailor's
life,
Want and plenty, rest and strife,
His roving fancy, like the wind,
That nothing can stay and nothing can
bind,
And the magic charm of foreign lands,
With shadows of palms, and shining
sands,
Where the tumbling surf,
O'er the coral reefs of Madagascar, 160
Washes the feet of the swarthy Lascar,
As he lies alone and asleep on the turf.
And the trembling maiden held her
breath
At the tales of that awful, pitiless sea,
With all its terror and mystery,
The dim, dark sea, so like unto Death,

That divides and yet unites mankind!
And whenever the old man paused, a
gleam
From the bowl of his pipe would
awhile illumine 169
The silent group in the twilight gloom,
And thoughtful faces, as in a dream;
And for a moment one might mark
What had been hidden by the dark,
That the head of the maiden lay at
rest,
Tenderly, on the young man's breast!

Day by day the vessel grew,
With timbers fashioned strong and
true,
Stemson and keelson and sternson-
knee,
Till, framed with perfect symmetry,
A skeleton ship rose up to view! 180
And around the bows and along the
side
The heavy hammers and mallets plied,
Till after many a week, at length,
Wonderful for form and strength,
Sublime in its enormous bulk,
Loomed aloft the shadowy hulk!
And around it columns of smoke, up-
wreathing,
Rose from the boiling, bubbling,
seething
Caldron, that glowed,
And overflowed 190
With the black tar, heated for the
sheathing.
And amid the clamors
Of clattering hammers,
He who listened heard now and then
The song of the Master and his men:—

“Build me straight, O worthy Mas-
ter,
Stanch and strong, a goodly vessel,
That shall laugh at all disaster,
And with wave and whirlwind
wrestle!”

With oaken brace and copper band, 200
Lay the rudder on the sand,
That, like a thought, should have control
Over the movement of the whole ;
And near it the anchor, whose giant
hand
Would reach down and grapple with
the land,

And immovable and fast
Hold the great ship against the bellow-
ing blast!

And at the bows an image stood, 208
By a cunning artist carved in wood,
With robes of white, that far behind
Seemed to be fluttering in the wind.
It was not shaped in a classic mould,
Not like a Nymph or Goddess of
old,

Behold, at last,
Each tall and tapering mast
Is swung into its place;
Shrouds and stays
Holding it firm and fast!

Long ago,
In the deer-haunted forests of Maine,
When upon mountain and plain 230
Lay the snow,

"They fell, — those lordly pines!"

Or Naiad rising from the water,
But modelled from the Master's
daughter!

On many a dreary and misty night,
'T will be seen by the rays of the sig-
nal light,
Speeding along through the rain and
the dark,

Like a ghost in its snow-white sark,
The pilot of some phantom bark, 220
Guiding the vessel, in its flight,
By a path none other knows aright!

They fell, — those lordly pines!
Those grand, majestic pines!
'Mid shouts and cheers
The fated steers,
Panting beneath the goad,
Dragged down the weary, winding road
Those captive kings so straight and
tall,

To be shorn of their streaming hair,
And naked and bare, 240
To feel the stress and the strain
Of the wind and the reeling main,

Whose roar
Would remind them forevermore
Of their native forests they should not
see again.

And everywhere
The slender, graceful spars
Poise aloft in the air,
And at the mast-head,
White, blue, and red, 250
A flag unrolls the stripes and stars.
Ah! when the wanderer, lonely,
friendless,
In foreign harbors shall behold
That flag unrolled,
'T will be as a friendly hand
Stretched out from his native land,
Filling his heart with memories sweet
and endless!

All is finished! and at length
Has come the bridal day
Of beauty and of strength. 260
To-day the vessel shall be launched!
With fleecy clouds the sky is blanced,
And o'er the bay,
Slowly, in all his splendors dight,
The great sun rises to behold the sight.

The ocean old,
Centuries old,
Strong as youth, and as uncontrolled,
Paces restless to and fro,
Up and down the sands of gold. 270
His beating heart is not at rest;
And far and wide,
With ceaseless flow,
His beard of snow
Heaves with the heaving of his breast.
He waits impatient for his bride.
There she stands,
With her foot upon the sands,
Decked with flags and streamers gay,
In honor of her marriage day, 280
Her snow-white signals fluttering,
blending,
Round her like a veil descending,
Ready to be
The bride of the gray old sea.

On the deck another bride
Is standing by her lover's side.
Shadows from the flags and shrouds,
Like the shadows cast by clouds,
Broken by many a sudden fleck,
Fall around them on the deck. 290

The prayer is said,
The service read,
The joyous bridegroom bows his
head;

And in tears the good old Master
Shakes the brown hand of his son,
Kisses his daughter's glowing cheek
In silence, for he cannot speak,
And ever faster
Down his own the tears begin to run.

The worthy pastor — 300
The shepherd of that wandering flock
That has the ocean for its wold,
That has the vessel for its fold,
Leaping ever from rock to rock —
Spake, with accents mild and clear,
Words of warning, words of cheer,
But tedious to the bridegroom's ear.
He knew the chart

Of the sailor's heart,
All its pleasures and its griefs, 310
All its shallows and rocky reefs,
All those secret currents, that flow
With such resistless undertow,
And lift and drift, with terrible force,
The will from its moorings and its
course.

Therefore he spake, and thus said
he:—

“Like unto ships far off at sea,
Outward or homeward bound, are we.
Before, behind, and all around,
Floats and swings the horizon's
bound, 320

Seems at its distant rim to rise
And climb the crystal wall of the
skies,

And then again to turn and sink,
As if we could slide from its outer
brink.

Ah! it is not the sea,
It is not the sea that sinks and shelves
But ourselves

That rock and rise
With endless and uneasy motion,
Now touching the very skies, 330

Now sinking into the depths of ocean.
Ah! if our souls but poise and swing
Like the compass in its brazen ring,
Ever level and ever true

To the toil and the task we have to do,
We shall sail securely, and safely
reach

The Fortunate Isles, on whose shining
beach

The sights we see, and the sounds we
hear,
Will be those of joy and not of fear!"

Then the Master, 340
With a gesture of command,
Waved his hand;
And at the word,
Loud and sudden there was heard,
All around them and below,
The sound of hammers, blow on blow,
Knocking away the shores and spurs.
And see! she stirs!
She starts, — she moves, — she seems
to feel
The thrill of life along her keel, 350
And, spurning with her foot the
ground,
With one exulting, joyous bound,
She leaps into the ocean's arms!

And lo! from the assembled crowd
There rose a shout, prolonged and
loud,
That to the ocean seemed to say,
"Take her, O bridegroom, old and
gray,
Take her to thy protecting arms,
With all her youth and all her
charms!"

How beautiful she is! How fair 360
She lies within those arms, that press
Her form with many a soft caress
Of tenderness and watchful care!
Sail forth into the sea, O ship!
Through wind and wave, right on-
ward steer.

The moistened eye, the trembling lip,
Are not the signs of doubt or fear.

Sail forth into the sea of life,
O gentle, loving, trusting wife,
And safe from all adversity 370
Upon the bosom of that sea
Thy comings and thy goings be!
For gentleness and love and trust
Prevail o'er angry wave and gust;
And in the wreck of noble lives
Something immortal still survives!

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years, 380
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

We know what Master laid thy keel,
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of
steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and
rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers
beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'T is of the wave and not the rock;
'T is but the flapping of the sail, 390
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with
thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our
tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, — are all with thee!

SEAWEED

WHEN descends on the Atlantic
The gigantic
Storm-wind of the equinox,
Landward in his wrath he scourges
The toiling surges,
Laden with seaweed from the rocks:

From Bermuda's reefs; from edges
Of sunken ledges,
In some far-off, bright Azore;
From Bahama, and the dashing, 40
Silver-flashing
Surges of San Salvador;

From the tumbling surf, that buries
The Orkneyan skerries,
Answering the hoarse Hebrides;
And from wrecks of ships, and drift
ing
Spars, uplifting
On the desolate, rainy seas; —

Ever drifting, drifting, drifting 40
On the shifting
Currents of the restless main;
Till in sheltered coves, and reaches
Of sandy beaches,
All have found repose again.

So when storms of wild emotion
Strike the ocean

Of the poet's soul, erelong
From each cave and rocky fastness,
In its vastness,
Floats some fragment of a song: 30

From the far-off isles enchanted,
Heaven has planted
With the golden fruit of Truth;
From the flashing surf, whose vision
Gleams Elysian
In the tropic clime of Youth;

From the strong Will, and the En-
deavor
That forever
Wrestle with the tides of Fate;
From the wreck of Hopes far-scattered, 40
Tempest-shattered,
Floating waste and desolate;—

Ever drifting, drifting, drifting
On the shifting
Currents of the restless heart;
Till at length in books recorded,
They, like hoarded
Household words, no more depart.

CHRYSAOR

Just above yon sandy bar,
As the day grows fainter and dimmer,
Lonely and lovely, a single star
Lights the air with a dusky glimmer.

Into the ocean faint and far
Falls the trail of its golden splendor,
And the gleam of that single star
Is ever refulgent, soft, and tender.

Chrysaor, rising out of the sea,
Showed thus glorious and thus emulous,
Leaving the arms of Callirrhoe,
Forever tender, soft, and tremulous.

Thus o'er the ocean faint and far
Trailed the gleam of his falchion brightly;
Is it a God, or is it a star
That, entranced, I gaze on nightly!

THE SECRET OF THE SEA

AH! what pleasant visions haunt me
As I gaze upon the sea!
All the old romantic legends,
All my dreams, come back to me

Sails of silk and ropes of sandal,
Such as gleam in ancient lore;
And the singing of the sailors,
And the answer from the shore!

Most of all, the Spanish ballad
Haunts me oft, and tarries long, 25
Of the noble Count Arnaldos
And the sailor's mystic song.

Like the long waves on a sea-beach,
Where the sand as silver shines,
With a soft, monotonous cadence,
Flow its unrhymed lyric lines;—

Telling how the Count Arnaldos,
With his hawk upon his hand,
Saw a fair and stately galley,
Steering onward to the land;— 20

How he heard the ancient helmsman
Chant a song so wild and clear,
That the sailing sea-bird slowly
Poised upon the mast to hear,

Till his soul was full of longing,
And he cried, with impulse strong,—
“Helmsman! for the love of heaven,
Teach me, too, that wondrous song!”

“Wouldst thou,”—so the helmsman answered,
“Learn the secret of the sea? 30
Only those who brave its dangers
Comprehend its mystery!”

In each sail that skims the horizon,
In each landward-blowing breeze,
I behold that stately galley,
Hear those mournful melodies;

Till my soul is full of longing
For the secret of the sea,
And the heart of the great ocean
Sends a thrilling pulse through me. 40

TWILIGHT

THE twilight is sad and cloudy,
The wind blows wild and free,
And like the wings of sea-birds
Flash the white caps of the sea.

But in the fisherman's cottage
There shines a ruddier light,
And a little face at the window
Peers out into the night.

Close, close it is pressed to the window,
As if those childish eyes
Were looking into the darkness
To see some form arise.

And a woman's waving shadow
Is passing to and fro,
Now rising to the ceiling,
Now bowing and bending low.

What tale do the roaring ocean,
And the night-wind, bleak and wild,
As they beat at the crazy casement,
Tell to that little child ?

And why do the roaring ocean,
And the night-wind, wild and bleak,
As they beat at the heart of the mother
Drive the color from her cheek ?

SIR HUMPHREY GILBERT

SOUTHWARD with fleet of ice
Sailed the corsair Death ;
Wild and fast blew the blast,
And the east-wind was his breath.

His lordly ships of ice
Glisten in the sun ;
On each side, like pennons wide,
Flashing crystal streamlets run.

His sails of white sea-mist
Dripped with silver rain ;
But where he passed there were cast
Laden shadows o'er the main.

Eastward from Campobello
Sir Humphrey Gilbert sailed ;
Three days or more seaward he bore,
Then, alas! the land-wind failed.

Alas! the land-wind failed,
And ice-cold grew the night ;

And nevermore, on sea or shore,
Should Sir Humphrey see the light. 20

He sat upon the deck,
The Book was in his hand ;
"Do not fear! Heaven is as near,"
He said, "by water as by land!"

In the first watch of the night,
Without a signal's sound,
Out of the sea, mysteriously,
The fleet of Death rose all around.

The moon and the evening star
Were hanging in the shrouds ;
Every mast, as it passed, 30
Seemed to rake the passing clouds.

They grappled with their prize,
At midnight black and cold !
As of a rock was the shock ;
Heavily the ground-swell rolled.

Southward through day and dark,
They drift in close embrace,
With mist and rain, o'er the open main ;
Yet there seems no change of place. 40

Southward, forever southward,
They drift through dark and day ;
And like a dream, in the Gulf-Stream
Sinking, vanish all away.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

THE rocky ledge runs far into the sea,
And on its outer point, some miles
away,
The Lighthouse lifts its massive ma-
sonry,
A pillar of fire by night, of cloud
by day.

Even at this distance I can see the
tides,
Upheaving, break unheard along its
base,
A speechless wrath, that rises and sub-
sides
In the white lip and tremor of the
face.

And as the evening darkens, lo! how
bright,
Through the deep purple of the
twilight air, 10

Beams forth the sudden radiance of its
light
With strange, unearthly splendor in
the glare!

Not one alone; from each projecting
cape
And perilous reef along the ocean's
verge,
Starts into life a dim, gigantic shape,
Holding its lantern o'er the restless
surge.

Like the great giant Christopher it
stands
Upon the brink of the tempestuous
wave,
Wading far out among the rocks and
sands,
The night-o'ertaken mariner to save.

And the great ships sail outward and
return,
Bending and bowing o'er the bil-²¹
lowy swells,
And ever joyful, as they see it burn,
They wave their silent welcomes
and farewells.

They come forth from the darkness,
and their sails
Gleam for a moment only in the
blaze,
And eager faces, as the light unveils,
Gaze at the tower, and vanish while
they gaze.

The mariner remembers when a child,
On his first voyage, he saw it fade
and sink;
And when, returning from adventures³⁰
wild,
He saw it rise again o'er ocean's
brink.

Steadfast, serene, immovable, the same
Year after year, through all the
silent night
Burns on forevermore that quenchless
flame,
Shines on that inextinguishable
light!

It sees the ocean to its bosom clasp
The rocks and sea-sand with the kiss
of peace;

It sees the wild winds lift it in their
grasp,
And hold it up, and shake it like a
fleece. 40

The startled waves leap over it; the
storm
Smites it with all the scourges of the
rain,
And steadily against its solid form
Press the great shoulders of the hur-
ricane.

The sea-bird wheeling round it, with
the din
Of wings and winds and solitary
cries,
Blinded and maddened by the light
within,
Dashes himself against the glare, and
dies.

A new Prometheus, chained upon the
rock,
Still grasping in his hand the fire of
Jove,
It does not hear the cry, nor heed the⁵⁰
shock,
But hails the mariner with words
of love.

"Sail on!" it says, "sail on, ye stately
ships!
And with your floating bridge the
ocean span;
Be mine to guard this light from all
eclipse,
Be yours to bring man nearer unto
man!"

THE FIRE OF DRIFT-WOOD

DEVEREUX FARM, NEAR MARBLEHEAD

WE sat within the farm-house old,
Whose windows, looking o'er the
bay,
Gave to the sea-breeze damp and cold
An easy entrance, night and day.

Not far away we saw the port,
The strange, old-fashioned, silent
town,
The lighthouse, the dismantled fort,
The wooden houses, quaint and
brown.

We sat and talked until the night,
 Descending, filled the little room; 10
 Our faces faded from the sight,
 Our voices only broke the gloom.

We spake of many a vanished scene,
 Of what we once had thought and
 said,
 Of what had been, and might have
 been,
 And who was changed, and who was
 dead;

And all that fills the hearts of friends,
 When first they feel, with secret
 pain,
 Their lives thenceforth have separate
 ends,
 And never can be one again; 20

The first slight swerving of the heart,
 That words are powerless to ex-
 press,
 And leave it still unsaid in part,
 Or say it in too great excess.

The very tones in which we spake
 Had something strange, I could but
 mark;
 The leaves of memory seemed to
 make
 A mournful rustling in the dark.

Oft died the words upon our lips,
 As suddenly, from out the fire 30
 Built of the wreck of stranded ships,
 The flames would leap and then ex-
 pire.

And, as their splendor flashed and
 failed,
 We thought of wrecks upon the
 main,
 Of ships dismasted, that were hailed
 And sent no answer back again.

The windows, rattling in their frames,
 The ocean, roaring up the beach,
 The gusty blast, the bickering flames,
 All mingled vaguely in our speech;

Until they made themselves a part 41
 Of fancies floating through the
 brain,
 The long-lost ventures of the heart,
 That send no answers back again

O flames that glowed! O hearts that
 yearned!

They were indeed too much akin,
 The drift-wood fire without that
 burned,
 The thoughts that burned and
 glowed within.

BY THE FIRESIDE

RESIGNATION

THERE is no flock, however watched
 and tended,
 But one dead lamb is there!
 There is no fireside, howsoe'er de-
 fended,
 But has one vacant chair!

The air is full of farewells to the dy-
 ing,
 And mournings for the dead;
 The heart of Rachel, for her children
 crying,
 Will not be comforted!

Let us be patient! These severe af-
 flictions
 Not from the ground arise, 10
 But oftentimes celestial benedictions
 Assume this dark disguise.

We see but dimly through the mists
 and vapors;
 Amid these earthly damps
 What seem to us but sad, funereal
 tapers
 May be heaven's distant lamps.

There is no Death! What seems so is
 transition;
 This life of mortal breath
 Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
 Whose portal we call Death. 20

She is not dead, — the child of our
 affection, —
 But gone unto that school
 Where she no longer needs our poor
 protection,
 And Christ himself doth rule.

In that great cloister's stillness and
 seclusion,
 By guardian angels led,

Safe from temptation, safe from sin's
pollution,
She lives, whom we call dead.

Day after day we think what she is
doing
In those bright realms of air ; 30
Year after year, her tender steps pur-
suing,
Behold her grown more fair.

Thus do we walk with her, and keep
unbroken
The bond which nature gives,
Thinking that our remembrance,
though unspoken,
May reach her where she lives.

Not as a child shall we again behold
her ;
For when with raptures wild
In our embraces we again enfold her,
She will not be a child ; 40

But a fair maiden, in her Father's
mansion,
Clothed with celestial grace ;
And beautiful with all the soul's ex-
pansion
Shall we behold her face.

And though at times impetuous with
emotion
And anguish long suppressed,
The swelling heart heaves moaning
like the ocean,
That cannot be at rest, —

We will be patient, and assuage the
feeling
We may not wholly stay ; 50
By silence sanctifying, not concealing,
The grief that must have way.

THE BUILDERS

ALL are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time ;
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

Nothing useless is, or low ;
Each thing in its place is best ;
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest.

For the structure that we raise,
Time is with materials filled ;
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we
build.

Truly shape and fashion these ;
Leave no yawning gaps between ;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen.

In the elder days of Art,
Builders wrought with greatest
care
Each minute and unseen part ;
For the Gods see everywhere.

Let us do our work as well,
Both the unseen and the seen ;
Make the house, where Gods may
dwell,
Beautiful, entire, and clean.

Else our lives are incomplete,
Standing in these walls of Time,
Broken stairways, where the feet
Stumble as they seek to climb.

Build to-day, then, strong and sure,
With a firm and ample base ;
And ascending and secure
Shall to-morrow find its place.

Thus alone can we attain
To those turrets, where the eye
Sees the world as one vast plain,
And one boundless reach of sky.

SAND OF THE DESERT IN AN HOUR-GLASS

A HANDFUL of red sand, from the hot
clime
Of Arab deserts brought,
Within this glass becomes the spy of
Time,
The minister of Thought.

How many weary centuries has it
been
About those deserts blown !
How many strange vicissitudes has
seen,
How many histories known !

Perhaps the camels of the Ishmaelite
 Trampled and passed it o'er, 10
 When into Egypt from the patriarch's
 sight
 His favorite son they bore.

Perhaps the feet of Moses, burnt and
 bare,
 Crushed it beneath their tread,
 Or Pharaoh's flashing wheels into the
 air
 Scattered it as they sped ;

Or Mary, with the Christ of Nazareth
 Held close in her caress,
 Whose pilgrimage of hope and love
 and faith
 Illumed the wilderness ; 20

Or anchorites beneath Engaddi's
 palms
 Pacing the Dead Sea beach,
 And singing slow their old Armenian
 psalms
 In half-articulate speech ;

Or caravans, that from Bassora's gate
 With westward steps depart ;
 Or Mecca's pilgrims, confident of Fate,
 And resolute in heart !

These have passed over it, or may
 have passed !
 Now in this crystal tower 30
 Imprisoned by some curious hand at
 last,
 It counts the passing hour.

And as I gaze, these narrow walls ex-
 pand ; —
 Before my dreamy eye
 Stretches the desert with its shifting
 sand,
 Its unimpeded sky.

And borne aloft by the sustaining
 blast,
 This little golden thread
 Dilates into a column high and vast,
 A form of fear and dread. 40

And onward, and across the setting sun,
 Across the boundless plain,
 The column and its broader shadow
 run,
 Till thought pursues in vain.

The vision vanishes! These walls
 again
 Shut out the lurid sun,
 Shut out the hot, immeasurable plain
 The half-hour's sand is run !

THE OPEN WINDOW

THE old house by the lindens
 Stood silent in the shade,
 And on the gravelled pathway
 The light and shadow played.

I saw the nursery windows
 Wide open to the air ;
 But the faces of the children,
 They were no longer there.

The large Newfoundland house-dog
 Was standing by the door ;
 He looked for his little playmates,
 Who would return no more.

They walked not under the lindens,
 They played not in the hall ;
 But shadow, and silence, and sadness
 Were hanging over all.

The birds sang in the branches,
 With sweet, familiar tone ;
 But the voices of the children
 Will be heard in dreams alone !

And the boy that walked beside me,
 He could not understand
 Why closer in mine, ah ! closer,
 I pressed his warm, soft hand !

KING WITLAF'S DRINKING- HORN

WITLAF, a king of the Saxons,
 Ere yet his last he breathed,
 To the merry monks of Croyland
 His drinking-horn bequeathed, —

That, whenever they sat at their
 revels,
 And drank from the golden bowl,
 They might remember the donor,
 And breathe a prayer for his soul.

So sat they once at Christmas,
 And bade the goblet pass ;

In their beards the red wine glistened
Like dew-drops in the grass.

They drank to the soul of Witlaf,
They drank to Christ the Lord,
And to each of the Twelve Apostles,
Who had preached his holy word.

They drank to the Saints and Martyrs
Of the dismal days of yore,
And as soon as the horn was empty
They remembered one Saint more.

And the reader droned from the pulpit,
Like the murmur of many bees,
The legend of good Saint Guthlac,
And Saint Basil's homilies ;

Till the great bells of the convent,
From their prison in the tower,
Guthlac and Bartholomæus,
Proclaimed the midnight hour.

And the Yule-log cracked in the chimney,
And the Abbot bowed his head,
And the flamelets flapped and flickered,
But the Abbot was stark and dead.

Yet still in his pallid fingers
He clutched the golden bowl,
In which, like a pearl dissolving,
Had sunk and dissolved his soul.

But not for this their revels
The jovial monks forbore,
For they cried, " Fill high the goblet !
We must drink to one Saint more ! "

GASPAR BECERRA

By his evening fire the artist
Pondered o'er his secret shame ;
Baffled, weary, and disheartened,
Still he mused, and dreamed of fame.

'T was an image of the Virgin
That had tasked his utmost skill ;
But, alas ! his fair ideal
Vanished and escaped him still.

From a distant Eastern island
Had the precious wood been brought ;
Day and night the anxious master
At his toil untiring wrought ;

Till, discouraged and desponding,
Sat he now in shadows deep,
And the day's humiliation
Found oblivion in sleep.

Then a voice cried, " Rise, O master !
From the burning brand of oak
Shape the thought that stirs within
thee ! " —
And the startled artist woke, —

Woke, and from the smoking embers
Seized and quenched the glowing
wood ;
And therefrom he carved an image,
And he saw that it was good.

O thou sculptor, painter, poet !
Take this lesson to thy heart :
That is best which lieth nearest ;
Shape from that thy work of art.

PEGASUS IN POUND

ONCE into a quiet village,
Without haste and without heed,
In the golden prime of morning,
Strayed the poet's wingèd steed.

It was Autumn, and incessant
Piped the quails from shocks and
sheaves,
And, like living coals, the apples
Burned among the withering leaves.

Loud the clamorous bell was ringing
From its belfry gaunt and grim ;
'T was the daily call to labor ;
Not a triumph meant for him.

Not the less he saw the landscape,
In its gleaming vapor veiled ;
Not the less he breathed the odors
That the dying leaves exhaled.

Thus, upon the village common,
By the school-boys he was found ;
And the wise men, in their wisdom,
Put him straightway into pound. 2c

Then the sombre village crier,
Ringing loud his brazen bell,
Wandered down the street proclaim-
ing
There was an estray to sell.

And the curious country people,
 Rich and poor, and young and old,
 Came in haste to see this wondrous
 Wingèd steed, with mane of gold.

Thus the day passed, and the evening
 Fell, with vapors cold and dim; 30
 But it brought no food nor shelter,
 Brought no straw nor stall, for him.

Patiently, and still expectant,
 Looked he through the wooden bars,
 Saw the moon rise o'er the landscape,
 Saw the tranquil, patient stars;

Till at length the bell at midnight
 Sounded from its dark abode,
 And, from out a neighboring farm-
 yard,
 Loud the cock Alectryon crowed. 40

Then, with nostrils wide distended,
 Breaking from his iron chain,
 And unfolding far his pinions,
 To those stars he soared again.

On the morrow, when the village
 Woke to all its toil and care,

Lo! the strange steed had departed,
 And they knew not when nor where.

But they found, upon the greensward
 Where his struggling hoofs had
 trod, 50
 Pure and bright, a fountain flowing
 From the hoof-marks in the sod.

From that hour, the fount unfailing
 Gladdens the whole region round,
 Strengthening all who drink its wa-
 ters,
 While it soothes them with its sound.

TEGNÉR'S DRAPA

I HEARD a voice, that cried,
 "Balder the Beautiful
 Is dead, is dead!"
 And through the misty air
 Passed like the mournful cry
 Of sunward sailing cranes.

I saw the pallid corpee
 Of the dead sun
 Borne through the Northern sky.

Blasts from Niffelheim
Lifted the sheeted mists
Around him as he passed.

10

And the voice forever cried,
"Balder the Beautiful
Is dead, is dead!"
And died away
Through the dreary night,
In accents of despair.

Balder the Beautiful,
God of the summer sun,
Fairest of all the Gods!
Light from his forehead beamed,
Runes were upon his tongue,
As on the warrior's sword.

20

All things in earth and air
Bound were by magic spell
Never to do him harm;
Even the plants and stones;
All save the mistletoe,
The sacred mistletoe!

30

Hoeder, the blind old God,
Whose feet are shod with silence,
Pierced through that gentle breast
With his sharp spear, by fraud,
Made of the mistletoe.
The accursèd mistletoe!

They laid him in his ship,
With horse and harness,
As on a funeral pyre.
Odin placed
A ring upon his finger,
And whispered in his ear.

40

They launched the burning ship!
It floated far away
Over the misty sea,
Till like the sun it seemed,
Sinking beneath the waves.
Balder returned no more!

So perish the old Gods!
But out of the sea of Time
Rises a new land of song,
Fairer than the old.
Over its meadows green
Walk the young bards and sing.

50

Build it again,
O ye bards,
Fairer than before!

Ye fathers of the new race,
Feed upon morning dew,
Sing the new Song of Love! 60

The law of force is dead!
The law of love prevails!
Thor, the thunderer,
Shall rule the earth no more,
No more, with threats,
Challenge the meek Christ.

Sing no more,
O ye bards of the North,
Of Vikings and of Jarls!
Of the days of Eld 70
Preserve the freedom only,
Not the deeds of blood!

SONNET

ON MRS. KEMBLE'S READINGS FROM
SHAKESPEARE

O PRECIOUS evenings! all too swiftly
sped!
Leaving us heirs to amplest herit-
ages
Of all the best thoughts of the
greatest sages,
And giving tongues unto the silent
dead!
How our hearts glowed and trembled
as she read,
Interpreting by tones the wondrous
pages
Of the great poet who foreruns the
ages,
Anticipating all that shall be said!
O happy Reader! having for thy text
The magic book, whose Sibylline
leaves have caught
The rarest essence of all human
thought!
O happy Poet! by no critic vexed!
How must thy listening spirit now
rejoice
To be interpreted by such a voice!

THE SINGERS

God sent his Singers upon earth
With songs of sadness and of mirth,
That they might touch the hearts of
men,
And bring them back to heaven again.

The first, a youth with soul of fire,
Held in his hand a golden lyre ;
Through groves he wandered, and by
streams,
Playing the music of our dreams.

The second, with a bearded face,
Stood singing in the market-place,
And stirred with accents deep and loud
The hearts of all the listening crowd.

A gray old man, the third and last,
Sang in cathedrals dim and vast,
While the majestic organ rolled
Contrition from its mouths of gold.

And those who heard the Singers three
Disputed which the best might be ;
For still their music seemed to start
Discordant echoes in each heart.

But the great Master said, " I see
No best in kind, but in degree ;
I gave a various gift to each,
To charm, to strengthen, and to teach.

"These are the three great chords of
might,
And he whose ear is tuned aright
Will hear no discord in the three,
But the most perfect harmony."

SUSPIRIA

TAKE them, O Death ! and bear away
Whatever thou canst call thine own !
Thine image, stamped upon this clay,
Doth give thee that, but that alone !

Take them, O Grave ! and let them
lie
Folded upon thy narrow shelves,

As garments by the soul laid by,
And precious only to ourselves !

Take them, O great Eternity !
Our little life is but a gust
That bends the branches of thy tree,
And trails its blossoms in the dust !

HYMN

FOR MY BROTHER'S ORDINATION

CHRIST to the young man said : " Yet
one thing more ;
If thou wouldst perfect be,
Sell all thou hast and give it to the
poor,
And come and follow me ! "

Within this temple Christ again, un-
seen,
Those sacred words hath said
And his invisible hands to-day have
been
Laid on a young man's head.

And evermore beside him on his way
The unseen Christ shall move,
That he may lean upon his arm and
say,
" Dost thou, dear Lord, approve ? "

Beside him at the marriage feast shall
be,
To make the scene more fair ;
Beside him in the dark Gethsemane
Of pain and midnight prayer.

O holy trust ! O endless sense of rest !
Like the beloved John
To lay his head upon the Saviour's
breast,
And thus to journey on !

"And he saw a youth approaching
Dressed in garments green and yellow" (See p. 153)

THE SONG OF HIAWATHA

INTRODUCTION

SHOULD you ask me, whence these
stories?

Whence these legends and traditions,
With the odors of the forest,
With the dew and damp of meadows,
With the curling smoke of wigwams,
With the rushing of great rivers,
With their frequent repetitions,
And their wild reverberations,
As of thunder in the mountains?

I should answer, I should tell you -
"From the forests and the prairies,
From the great lakes of the Northland,
From the land of the Ojibways,
From the land of the Dakotahs,
From the mountains, moors, and fen-
lands
Where the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
Feeds among the reeds and rushes.
I repeat them as I heard them
From the lips of Nawadaha,
The musician, the sweet singer." 20

Should you ask where Nawadaha
Found these songs so wild and way-
ward,
Found these legends and traditions,
I should answer, I should tell you,
"In the bird's-nests of the forest,
In the lodges of the beaver,
In the hoof-prints of the bison,
In the eyry of the eagle!

"All the wild-fowl sang them to
him,
In the moorlands and the fen-lands, 30
In the melancholy marshes;
Chetowaik, the plover, sang them,
Mahng, the loon, the wild-goose,
Wawa,

The blue heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
And the grouse, the Mushkodasa!"

If still further you should ask me,
Saying, "Who was Nawadaha?
Tell us of this Nawadaha,"
I should answer your inquiries
Straightway in such words as follow.

"In the vale of Tawasentha, 41
In the green and silent valley,
By the pleasant water-courses,
Dwelt the singer Nawadaha.
Round about the Indian village
Spread the meadows and the corn-
fields,

And beyond them stood the forest,
Stood the groves of singing pine-trees,
Green in Summer, white in Winter,
Ever sighing, ever singing. 50

"And the pleasant water-courses,
You could trace them through the val-
ley,

By the rushing in the Spring-time,
By the alders in the Summer,
By the white fog in the Autumn,
By the black line in the Winter;
And beside them dwelt the singer,
In the vale of Tawasentha,
In the green and silent valley.

"There he sang of Hiawatha, 60
Sang the Song of Hiawatha,
Sang his wondrous birth and being,
How he prayed and how he fasted,
How he lived, and toiled, and suffered,
That the tribes of men might prosper,
That he might advance his people!"

Ye who love the haunts of Nature,
Love the sunshine of the meadow,
Love the shadow of the forest,
Love the wind among the branches, 70

And the rain-shower and the snow-
storm,

And the rushing of great rivers
Through their palisades of pine-trees,
And the thunder in the mountains,
Whose innumerable echoes
Flap like eagles in their eyries; —
Listen to these wild traditions,
To this Song of Hiawatha!

Ye who love a nation's legends,
Love the ballads of a people, 80
That like voices from afar off
Call to us to pause and listen,
Speak in tones so plain and child-
like,

Scarcely can the ear distinguish
Whether they are sung or spoken; —
Listen to this Indian Legend,
To this Song of Hiawatha!

Ye whose hearts are fresh and sim-
ple,

Who have faith in God and Nature,
Who believe that in all ages 90
Every human heart is human,
That in even savage bosoms
There are longings, yearnings, striv-
ings

For the good they comprehend not,
That the feeble hands and helpless,
Groping blindly in the darkness,
Touch God's right hand in that dark-
ness

And are lifted up and strength-
ened; —

Listen to this simple story,
To this Song of Hiawatha! 100

Ye, who sometimes, in your ram-
bles

Through the green lanes of the coun-
try,

Where the tangled barberry-bushes
Hang their tufts of crimson berries
Over stone walls gray with mosses,
Pause by some neglected graveyard,
For a while to muse, and ponder
On a half-effaced inscription,
Written with little skill of song-
craft,

Homely phrases, but each letter 110
Full of hope and yet of heart-break,
Full of all the tender pathos
Of the Here and the Hereafter; —
Stay and read this rude inscrip-
tion,

Read this Song of Hiawatha!

I

THE PEACE-PIPE

ON the Mountains of the Prairie,
On the great Red Pipe-stone Quarry,
Gitche Manito, the mighty,
He the Master of Life, descending,
On the red crags of the quarry
Stood erect, and called the nations,
Called the tribes of men together.

From his footprints flowed a river,
Leaped into the light of morning,
O'er the precipice plunging down-
ward

Gleamed like Ishkoodah, the comet.
And the Spirit, stooping earthward,
With his finger on the meadow
Traced a winding pathway for it,
Saying to it, "Run in this way!"

From the red stone of the quarry
With his hand he broke a fragment,
Moulded it into a pipe-head,
Shaped and fashioned it with figures;
From the margin of the river
Took a long reed for a pipe-stem,
With its dark green leaves upon it;
Filled the pipe with bark of willow,
With the bark of the red willow;
Breathed upon the neighboring forest,
Made its great boughs chafe together,
Till in flame they burst and kindled;
And erect upon the mountains,
Gitche Manito, the mighty,
Smoked the calumet, the Peace-Pipe,
As a signal to the nations.

And the smoke rose slowly, slowly,
Through the tranquil air of morning,
First a single line of darkness,
Then a denser, bluer vapor,
Then a snow-white cloud unfolding,
Like the tree-tops of the forest,
Ever rising, rising, rising,
Till it touched the top of heaven,
Till it broke against the heaven,
And rolled outward all around it.

From the Vale of Tawasentha,
From the Valley of Wyoming,
From the groves of Tuscaloosa,
From the far-off Rocky Mountains,
From the Northern lakes and rivers
All the tribes beheld the signal,
Saw the distant smoke ascending,
The Pukwana of the Peace-Pipe.

And the Prophets of the nations
Said: "Behold it, the Pukwana!"

By this signal from afar off,
Bending like a wand of willow,
Waving like a hand that beckons,
Gitche Manito, the mighty,
Calls the tribes of men together,
Calls the warriors to his council!"

Down the rivers, o'er the prairies,
Came the warriors of the nations,
Came the Delawares and Mohawks,
Came the Choctaws and Camanches,
Came the Shoshonies and Blackfeet,
Came the Pawnees and Omahas,
Came the Mandans and Dacotahs,
Came the Hurons and Ojibways,
All the warriors drawn together
By the signal of the Peace-Pipe,
To the Mountains of the Prairie,
To the great Red Pipe-stone Quarry.

And they stood there on the mea-
dow,
With their weapons and their war-
gear,

Painted like the leaves of Autumn,
Painted like the sky of morning,
Wildly glaring at each other;
In their faces stern defiance,
In their hearts the feuds of ages,
The hereditary hatred,
The ancestral thirst of vengeance.

Gitche Manito, the mighty,
The creator of the nations,
Looked upon them with compassion,
With paternal love and pity;
Looked upon their wrath and wran-
gling

But as quarrels among children,
But as feuds and fights of children!

Over them he stretched his right
hand,

To subdue their stubborn natures,
To allay their thirst and fever,
By the shadow of his right hand;
Spake to them with voice majestic
As the sound of far-off waters,
Falling into deep abysses,
Warning, chiding, spake in this
wise:—

"O my children! my poor chil-
dren!

Listen to the words of wisdom,
Listen to the words of warning,
From the lips of the Great Spirit,
From the Master of Life, who made
you!

"I have given you lands to hunt
in,

I have given you streams to fish in, 100
 I have given you bear and bison,
 I have given you roe and reindeer,
 I have given you brant and beaver,
 Filled the marshes full of wild-fowl,
 Filled the rivers full of fishes;
 Why then are you not contented?
 Why then will you hunt each other?

"I will send a Prophet to you,
 A Deliverer of the nations,
 Who shall guide you and shall teach
 you,
 Who shall toil and suffer with you.
 If you listen to his counsels, 120
 You will multiply and prosper;
 If his warnings pass unheeded,

"Waving like a hand that beckons"

"I am weary of your quarrels, 108
 Weary of your wars and bloodshed,
 Weary of your prayers for vengeance,
 Of your wranglings and dissensions;
 All your strength is in your union,
 All your danger is in discord;
 Therefore be at peace henceforward,
 And as brothers live together.

You will fade away and perish!
 "Bathe now in the stream before
 you,
 Wash the war-paint from your faces,
 Wash the blood-stains from your fin-
 gers,
 Bury your war-clubs and your weap-
 ons,

Break the red stone from this quarry,
Mould and make it into Peace-Pipes,
Take the reeds that grow beside you,
Deck them with your brightest feathers,

131

Smoke the calumet together,
And as brothers live henceforward!"

Then upon the ground the warriors
Threw their cloaks and shirts of deer-
skin,

Threw their weapons and their war-
gear,

Leaped into the rushing river,
Washed the war-paint from their faces.
Clear above them flowed the water,
Clear and limpid from the footprints
Of the Master of Life descending; 141
Dark below them flowed the water,
Soiled and stained with streaks of
crimson,

As if blood were mingled with it!

From the river came the warriors,
Clean and washed from all their war-
paint;

On the banks their clubs they buried,
Buried all their warlike weapons.

Gitche Manito, the mighty,
The Great Spirit, the creator, 150
Smiled upon his helpless children!

And in silence all the warriors
Broke the red stone of the quarry,
Smoothed and formed it into Peace-
Pipes,

Broke the long reeds by the river,
Decked them with their brightest
feathers,

And departed each one homeward,
While the Master of Life, ascending,
Through the opening of cloud-cur-
tains,

Through the doorways of the heaven,
Vanished from before their faces, 161
In the smoke that rolled around him,
The Pukwana of the Peace-Pipe!

II

THE FOUR WINDS

"HONOR be to Mudjekeewis!"
Cried the warriors, cried the old men,
When he came in triumph homeward
With the sacred Belt of Wampum,
From the regions of the North-Wind,
From the kingdom of Wabasso,
From the land of the White Rabbit.

He had stolen the Belt of Wampum
From the neck of Mishe-Mokwa,
From the Great Bear of the mountains,
From the terror of the nations, 11
As he lay asleep and cumbrous
On the summit of the mountains,
Like a rock with mosses on it,
Spotted brown and gray with mosses.

Silently he stole upon him
Till the red nails of the monster
Almost touched him, almost scared
him,

Till the hot breath of his nostrils
Warmed the hands of Mudjekeewis, 20
As he drew the Belt of Wampum
Over the round ears, that heard not,
Over the small eyes, that saw not,
Over the long nose and nostrils,
The black muffle of the nostrils,
Out of which the heavy breathing
Warmed the hands of Mudjekeewis.

Then he swung aloft his war-club,
Shouted loud and long his war-cry,
Smote the mighty Mishe-Mokwa 30
In the middle of the forehead,
Right between the eyes he smote him.

With the heavy blow bewildered,
Rose the Great Bear of the mountains;
But his knees beneath him trembled,
And he whimpered like a woman,
As he reeled and staggered forward,
As he sat upon his haunches;
And the mighty Mudjekeewis,
Standing fearlessly before him, 40
Taunted him in loud derision,
Spake disdainfully in this wise:—

"Hark you, Bear! you are a coward;
And no Brave, as you pretended;
Else you would not cry and whimper
Like a miserable woman!
Bear! you know our tribes are hostile,
Long have been at war together;
Now you find that we are strongest,
You go sneaking in the forest, 50
You go hiding in the mountains!
Had you conquered me in battle
Not a groan would I have uttered:
But you, Bear! sit here and whimper,
And disgrace your tribe by crying,
Like a wretched Shaugodaya,
Like a cowardly old woman!"

Then again he raised his war-club,
Smote again the Mishe-Mokwa
In the middle of his forehead, 60
Broke his skull, as ice is broken
When one goes to fish in Winter.

Thus was slain the Mishe-Mokwa,
He the Great Bear of the mountains,
He the terror of the nations.

"Honor be to Mudjekeewis!"
With a shout exclaimed the people,
"Honor be to Mudjekeewis!"
Henceforth he shall be the West-Wind,
And hereafter and forever 70
Shall he hold supreme dominion
Over all the winds of heaven.
Call him no more Mudjekeewis,
Call him Kabeyun, the West-Wind!"

Thus was Mudjekeewis chosen
Father of the Winds of Heaven.
For himself he kept the West-Wind,
Gave the others to his children;
Unto Wabun gave the East-Wind,
Gave the South to Shawondasee, 80
And the North-Wind, wild and cruel,
To the fierce Kabibonokka.

Young and beautiful was Wabun;
He it was who brought the morning,
He it was whose silver arrows
Chased the dark o'er hill and valley;
He it was whose cheeks were painted
With the brightest streaks of crim-
son,

And whose voice awoke the village,
Called the deer, and called the hunter.

Lonely in the sky was Wabun; 90
Though the birds sang gayly to him,
Though the wild-flowers of the mea-
dow

Filled the air with odors for him;
Though the forests and the rivers
Sang and shouted at his coming,
Still his heart was sad within him,
For he was alone in heaven.

But one morning, gazing earthward,
While the village still was sleeping, 100
And the fog lay on the river,
Like a ghost, that goes at sunrise,
He beheld a maiden walking
All alone upon a meadow,
Gathering water-flags and rushes
By a river in the meadow.

Every morning, gazing earthward,
Still the first thing he beheld there
Was her blue eyes looking at him,
Two blue lakes among the rushes. 110
And he loved the lonely maiden,
Who thus waited for his coming;
For they both were solitary,
She on earth and he in heaven.

And he wooed her with caresses,
Wooed her with his smile of sunshine,

With his flattering words he wooed
her,

With his sighing and his singing,
Gentlest whispers in the branches,
Softest music, sweetest odors, 120
Till he drew her to his bosom,
Folded in his robes of crimson,
Till into a star he changed her,
Trembling still upon his bosom;
And forever in the heavens
They are seen together walking,
Wabun and the Wabun-Annung,
Wabun and the Star of Morning.

But the fierce Kabibonokka
Had his dwelling among icebergs, 130
In the everlasting snow-drifts,
In the kingdom of Wabasso,
In the land of the White Rabbit.
He it was whose hand in Autumn
Painted all the trees with scarlet,
Stained the leaves with red and yel-
low;

He it was who sent the snow-flakes,
Sifting, hissing through the forest,
Froze the ponds, the lakes, the rivers,
Drove the loon and sea-gull south-
ward, 140

Drove the cormorant and curlew
To their nests of sedge and sea-tang
In the realms of Shawondasee.

Once the fierce Kabibonokka
Issued from his lodge of snow-drifts,
From his home among the icebergs,
And his hair, with snow besprinkled,
Streamed behind him like a river,
Like a black and wintry river,
As he howled and hurried southward,
Over frozen lakes and moorlands. 150

There among the reeds and rushes
Found he Shingebis, the diver,
Trailing strings of fish behind him,
O'er the frozen fens and moorlands,
Lingering still among the moorlands,
Though his tribe had long departed
To the land of Shawondasee.

Cried the fierce Kabibonokka,
"Who is this that dares to brave
me? 160

Dares to stay in my dominions,
When the Wawa has departed,
When the wild-goose has gone south-
ward,

And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
Long ago departed southward?

I will go into his wigwam,
I will put his smouldering fire out!"

And at night Kabibonokka
To the lodge came wild and wailing,
Heaped the snow in drifts about it, 170
Shouted down into the smoke-flue,
Shook the lodge-poles in his fury,
Flapped the curtain of the door-way.
Shingebis, the diver, feared not,
Shingebis, the diver, cared not;
Four great logs had he for firewood,
One for each moon of the winter,
And for food the fishes served him.
By his blazing fire he sat there,
Warm and merry, eating, laugh-
ing, 180

Singing, "O Kabibonokka,
You are but my fellow-mortal!"

Then Kabibonokka entered,
And though Shingebis, the diver,
Felt his presence by the coldness,
Felt his icy breath upon him,
Still he did not cease his singing,
Still he did not leave his laughing,
Only turned the log a little,
Only made the fire burn brighter, 190
Made the sparks fly up the smoke flue.

From Kabibonokka's forehead,
From his snow-besprinkled tresses,
Drops of sweat fell fast and heavy,
Making dints upon the ashes,
As along the eaves of lodges,
As from drooping boughs of hemlock,
Drips the melting snow in spring-time,
Making hollows in the snow-drifts.

Till at last he rose defeated, 200
Could not bear the heat and laughter,
Could not bear the merry singing,
But rushed headlong through the
door-way,

Stamped upon the crusted snow-drifts,
Stamped upon the lakes and rivers,
Made the snow upon them harder,
Made the ice upon them thicker,
Challenged Shingebis, the diver,
To come forth and wrestle with him,
To come forth and wrestle naked 210
On the frozen fens and moorlands.

Forth went Shingebis, the diver,
Wrestled all night with the North-
Wind,

Wrestled naked in the woodlands
With the fierce Kabibonokka,
Till his panting breath grew fainter,
Till his frozen grasp grew feebler,
Till he reeled and staggered backward,
And retreated, baffled, beaten,
To the kingdom of Wabasso, 220

To the land of the White Rabbit,
Hearing still the gusty laughter,
Hearing Shingebis, the diver,
Singing, "O Kabibonokka,
You are but my fellow-mortal!"

Shawondasee, fat and lazy,
Had his dwelling far to southward,
In the drowsy, dreamy sunshine,
In the never-ending Summer.
He it was who sent the wood-birds, 230
Sent the robin, the Opechee,
Sent the bluebird, the Owaissa,
Sent the Shawshaw, sent the swallow,
Sent the wild-goose, Wawa, north-
ward,

Sent the melons and tobacco,
And the grapes in purple clusters.

From his pipe the smoke ascending
Filled the sky with haze and vapor,
Filled the air with dreamy softness,
Gave a twinkle to the water, 240
Touched the rugged hills with smooth-
ness,

Brought the tender Indian Summer
To the melancholy north-land,
In the dreary Moon of Snow-shoes.

Listless, careless Shawondasee!
In his life he had one shadow,
In his heart one sorrow had he.
Once, as he was gazing northward,
Far away upon a prairie
He beheld a maiden standing, 250
Saw a tall and slender maiden
All alone upon a prairie;
Brightest green were all her garments,
And her hair was like the sunshine.

Day by day he gazed upon her,
Day by day he sighed with passion,
Day by day his heart within him
Grew more hot with love and longing
For the maid with yellow tresses.
But he was too fat and lazy 260
To bestir himself and woo her.
Yes, too indolent and easy
To pursue her and persuade her;
So he only gazed upon her,
Only sat and sighed with passion
For the maiden of the prairie.

Till one morning, looking north-
ward,

He beheld her yellow tresses
Changed and covered o'er with white-
ness,
Covered as with whitest snow-flakes.
"Ah! my brother from the North-
land, 270

From the kingdom of Wabasso,
From the land of the White Rabbit!
You have stolen the maiden from me,
You have laid your hand upon her,
You have wooed and won my maiden,
With your stories of the North-land!"

Thus the wretched Shawondasee
Breathed into the air his sorrow;
And the South-Wind o'er the prairie 280
Wandered warm with sighs of passion,
With the sighs of Shawondasee,
Till the air seemed full of snow-flakes,
Full of thistle-down the prairie,
And the maid with hair like sunshine
Vanished from his sight forever;
Never more did Shawondasee
See the maid with yellow tresses!

Poor, deluded Shawondasee!
'T was no woman that you gazed at, 290
'T was no maiden that you sighed for,
'T was the prairie dandelion
That through all the dreamy Summer
You had gazed at with such longing,
You had sighed for with such passion,
And had puffed away forever,
Blown into the air with sighing.
Ah! deluded Shawondasee!

Thus the Four Winds were divided;
Thus the sons of Mudjekeewis 300
Had their stations in the heavens,
At the corners of the heavens;
For himself the West-Wind only
Kept the mighty Mudjekeewis.

III

HIAWATHA'S CHILDHOOD

DOWNWARD through the evening twilight,

In the days that are forgotten,
In the unremembered ages,
From the full moon fell Nokomis,
Fell the beautiful Nokomis,
She a wife, but not a mother.

She was sporting with her women,
Swinging in a swing of grape-vines,
When her rival she rejected,
Full of jealousy and hatred, 10
Cut the leafy swing asunder,
Cut in twain the twisted grape-vines,
And Nokomis fell affrighted
Downward through the evening twilight,

On the Muskoday, the meadow,
On the prairie full of blossoms.

"See! a star falls!" said the people;
"From the sky a star is falling!"

There among the ferns and mosses,
There among the prairie lilies, 20
On the Muskoday, the meadow,
In the moonlight and the starlight,
Fair Nokomis bore a daughter.
And she called her name Wenonah,
As the first-born of her daughters.
And the daughter of Nokomis
Grew up like the prairie lilies,
Grew a tall and slender maiden,
With the beauty of the moonlight,
With the beauty of the starlight. 30

And Nokomis warned her often,
Saying oft, and oft repeating,
"Oh, beware of Mudjekeewis,
Of the West-Wind, Mudjekeewis;
Listen not to what he tells you;
Lie not down upon the meadow,
Stoop not down among the lilies,
Lest the West-Wind come and harm
you!"

But she heeded not the warning,
Heeded not those words of wisdom, 40
And the West-Wind came at evening,
Walking lightly o'er the prairie,
Whispering to the leaves and blossoms,

Bending low the flowers and grasses,
Found the beautiful Wenonah,
Lying there among the lilies,
Wooed her with his words of sweetness,

Wooed her with his soft caresses,
Till she bore a son in sorrow,
Bore a son of love and sorrow. 50

Thus was born my Hiawatha,
Thus was born the child of wonder;
But the daughter of Nokomis,
Hiawatha's gentle mother,
In her anguish died deserted
By the West-Wind, false and faithless,
By the heartless Mudjekeewis.

For her daughter long and loudly
Wailed and wept the sad Nokomis;
"Oh that I were dead!" she murmured, 60

"Oh that I were dead, as thou art!
No more work, and no more weeping,
Wahonowin! Wahonowin!"

By the shores of Gitche Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Stood the wigwam of Nokomis,
Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis.
Dark behind it rose the forest,

Rose the black and gloomy pine-trees,
 Rose the firs with cones upon them ; 70
 Bright before it beat the water,
 Beat the clear and sunny water,
 Beat the shining Big-Sea-Water.

There the wrinkled old Nokomis
 Nursed the little Hiawatha,
 Rocked him in his linden cradle,
 Bedded soft in moss and rushes.
 Safely bound with reindeer sinews ;
 Stilled his fretful wail by saying,
 "Hush! the Naked Bear will hear
 thee!" 80

Lulled him into slumber, singing,
 "Ewa-yea! my little owlet!
 Who is this, that lights the wigwam?
 With his great eyes lights the wig-
 wam?"

Ewa-yea! my little owlet!"

Many things Nokomis taught him
 Of the stars that shine in heaven;
 Showed him Ishkoodah, the comet,
 Ishkoodah, with fiery tresses ;
 Showed the Death-Dance of the
 spirits, 90

Warriors with their plumes and war-
 clubs,

Flaring far away to northward
 In the frosty nights of Winter ;
 Showed the broad white road in hea-
 ven,

Pathway of the ghosts, the shadows,
 Running straight across the heavens,
 Crowded with the ghosts, the shad-
 ows.

At the door on summer evenings
 Sat the little Hiawatha ;
 Heard the whispering of the pine-
 trees, 100

Heard the lapping of the waters,
 Sounds of music, words of wonder ;
 "Minne-wawa!" said the pine-trees,
 "Mudway-aushka!" said the water.

Saw the fire-fly, Wah-wah-taysee,
 Flitting through the dusk of evening,
 With the twinkle of its candle
 Lighting up the brakes and bushes,
 And he sang the song of children.
 Sang the song Nokomis taught him:
 "Wah-wah-taysee, little fire-fly, 111
 Little, flitting, white-fire insect,
 Little, dancing, white-fire creature,
 Light me with your little candle,
 Ere upon my bed I lay me,
 Ere in sleep I close my eyelids!"

Saw the moon rise from the water

Rippling, rounding from the water,
 Saw the flecks and shadows on it,
 Whispered, "What is that, Noko-
 mis?" 120

And the good Nokomis answered :
 "Once a warrior, very angry,
 Seized his grandmother, and threw
 her

Up into the sky at midnight ;
 Right against the moon he threw her ;
 'Tis her body that you see there."

Saw the rainbow in the heaven,
 In the eastern sky, the rainbow,
 Whispered, "What is that, Noko-
 mis?"

And the good Nokomis answered : 130
 "'Tis the heaven of flowers you see
 there ;

All the wild-flowers of the forest,
 All the lilies of the prairie,
 When on earth they fade and perish,
 Blossom in that heaven above us."

When he heard the owls at mid-
 night,

Hooting, laughing in the forest,
 "What is that?" he cried in terror,
 "What is that," he said, "Nokomis?"
 And the good Nokomis answered: 140
 "That is but the owl and owlet,
 Talking in their native language,
 Talking, scolding at each other."

Then the little Hiawatha
 Learned of every bird its language,
 Learned their names and all their se-
 crets,

How they built their nests in Sum-
 mer,

Where they hid themselves in Winter,
 Talked with them whene'er he met
 them,

Called them "Hiawatha's Chickens."
 Of all beasts he learned the lan-
 guage, 151

Learned their names and all their se-
 crets,

How the beavers built their lodges,
 Where the squirrels hid their acorns,
 How the reindeer ran so swiftly,
 Why the rabbit was so timid,
 Talked with them whene'er he met
 them,

Called them "Hiawatha's Brothers."

Then Iagoo, the great boaster,
 He the marvellous story-teller, 160
 He the traveller and the talker,
 He the friend of old Nokomis,

Made a bow for Hiawatha;
From a branch of ash he made it,
From an oak-bough made the arrows,
Tipped with flint, and winged with
feathers,

And the cord he made of deer-skin.

Then he said to Hiawatha:
"Go, my son, into the forest,
Where the red deer herd together, 170
Kill for us a famous roebuck,
Kill for us a deer with antlers!"

Forth into the forest straightway
All alone walked Hiawatha
Proudly, with his bow and arrows;
And the birds sang round him, o'er
him,

"Do not shoot us, Hiawatha!"
Sang the robin, the Opechee,
Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,
"Do not shoot us, Hiawatha!" 180

Up the oak-tree, close beside him,
Sprang the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
In and out among the branches,
Coughed and chattered from the oak-
tree,

Laughed, and said between his laugh-
ing,

"Do not shoot me, Hiawatha!"
And the rabbit from his pathway
Leaped aside, and at a distance
Sat erect upon his haunches,
Half in fear and half in frolic, 190
Saying to the little hunter,

"Do not shoot me, Hiawatha!"
But he heeded not, nor heard them,
For his thoughts were with the red
deer;

On their tracks his eyes were fastened,
Leading downward to the river,
To the ford across the river,
And as one in slumber walked he.

Hidden in the alder-bushes,
There he waited till the deer came, 200
Till he saw two antlers lifted,
Saw two eyes look from the thicket,
Saw two nostrils point to windward,
And a deer came down the pathway,
Flecked with leafy light and shadow.
And his heart within him fluttered,
Trembled like the leaves above him,
Like the birch-leaf palpitated,
As the deer came down the pathway.

Then, upon one knee uprising, 210
Hiawatha aimed an arrow;
Scarce a twig moved with his motion,
Scarce a leaf was stirred or rustled,

But the wary roebuck started,
Stamped with all his hoofs together,
Listened with one foot uplifted,
Leaped as if to meet the arrow;
Ah! the singing, fatal arrow,
Like a wasp it buzzed and stung him!

Dead he lay there in the forest, 220
By the ford across the river;
Beat his timid heart no longer,
But the heart of Hiawatha
Throbbled and shouted and exulted,
As he bore the red deer homeward,
And Iagoo and Nokomis
Hailed his coming with applauses.

From the red deer's hide Nokomis
Made a cloak for Hiawatha,
From the red deer's flesh Nokomis 230
Made a banquet to his honor.
All the village came and feasted,
All the guests praised Hiawatha,
Called him Strong-Heart, Soan-ge-
taha!
Called him Loon-Heart, Mahn-go-tay-
see!

IV

HIAWATHA AND MUDJEKEEWIS

Out of childhood into manhood
Now had grown my Hiawatha,
Skilled in all the craft of hunters,
Learned in all the lore of old men,
In all youthful sports and pastimes,
In all manly arts and labors.

Swift of foot was Hiawatha;
He could shoot an arrow from him,
And run forward with such fleetness,
That the arrow fell behind him! 10
Strong of arm was Hiawatha;
He could shoot ten arrows upward,
Shoot them with such strength and
swiftness,

That the tenth had left the bow-string
Ere the first to earth had fallen!

He had mittens, Minjekahwun,
Magic mittens made of deer-skin;
When upon his hands he wore them,
He could smite the rocks asunder,
He could grind them into powder. 20
He had moccasins enchanted,
Magic moccasins of deer-skin;
When he bound them round his
ankles,

When upon his feet he tied them,
At each stride a mile he measured!

Much he questioned old Nokomis
Of his father Mudjekeewis;
Learned from her the fatal secret
Of the beauty of his mother,
Of the falsehood of his father; 30
And his heart was hot within him,
Like a living coal his heart was.

Then he said to old Nokomis,
"I will go to Mudjekeewis,
See how fares it with my father,
At the doorways of the West-Wind,
At the portals of the Sunset!"

From his lodge went Hiawatha,
Dressed for travel, armed for hunting;
Dressed in deer-skin shirt and leg-
gings, 40
Richly wrought with quills and wam-
pum;

On his head his eagle-feathers,
Round his waist his belt of wampum,
In his hand his bow of ash-wood,
Strung with sinews of the reindeer;
In his quiver oaken arrows,
Tipped with jasper, winged with
feathers;

With his mittens, Minjekahwun,
With his moccasins enchanted.

Warning said the old Nokomis, 50
"Go not forth, O Hiawatha!
To the kingdom of the West-Wind,
To the realms of Mudjekeewis,
Lest he harm you with his magic,
Lest he kill you with his cunning!"

But the fearless Hiawatha
Heeded not her woman's warning;
Forth he strode into the forest,
At each stride a mile he measured;
Lurid seemed the sky above him, 60
Lurid seemed the earth beneath him,
Hot and close the air around him,
Filled with smoke and fiery vapors,
As of burning woods and prairies,
For his heart was hot within him,
Like a living coal his heart was.

So he journeyed westward, west-
ward,

Left the fleetest deer behind him,
Left the antelope and bison;
Crossed the rushing Esconaba, 70
Crossed the mighty Mississippi,
Passed the Mountains of the Prairie,
Passed the land of Crows and Foxes,
Passed the dwellings of the Blackfeet,
Came unto the Rocky Mountains,
To the kingdom of the West-Wind,
Where upon the gusty summits

Sat the ancient Mudjekeewis,
Ruler of the winds of heaven.

Filled with awe was Hiawatha 80
At the aspect of his father.
On the air about him wildly
Tossed and streamed his cloudy tresses,
Gleamed like drifting snow his tresses,
Glared like Ishkoodah, the comet,
Like the star with fiery tresses.

Filled with joy was Mudjekeewis
When he looked on Hiawatha,
Saw his youth rise up before him,
In the face of Hiawatha. 90
Saw the beauty of Wenonah
From the grave rise up before him.

"Welcome!" said he, "Hiawatha,
To the kingdom of the West-Wind!
Long have I been waiting for you!
Youth is lovely, age is lonely,
Youth is fiery, age is frosty;
You bring back the days departed,
You bring back my youth of passion,
And the beautiful Wenonah!" 100

Many days they talked together,
Questioned, listened, waited, an-
swered;

Much the mighty Mudjekeewis
Boasted of his ancient prowess,
Of his perilous adventures,
His indomitable courage,
His invulnerable body.

Patiently sat Hiawatha,
Listening to his father's boasting;
With a smile he sat and listened, 110
Uttered neither threat nor menace,
Neither word nor look betrayed him,
But his heart was hot within him,
Like a living coal his heart was.

Then he said, "O Mudjekeewis,
Is there nothing that can harm you?
Nothing that you are afraid of?"
And the mighty Mudjekeewis, 118
Grand and gracious in his boasting,
Answered, saying, "There is nothing,
Nothing but the black rock yonder,
Nothing but the fatal Wawbeek!"

And he looked at Hiawatha
With a wise look and benignant,
With a countenance paternal,
Looked with pride upon the beauty
Of his tall and graceful figure,
Saying, "O my Hiawatha!
Is there anything can harm you?
Anything you are afraid of?" 130

But the wary Hiawatha
Paused awhile, as if uncertain,

Held his peace, as if resolving,
And then answered, "There is no-
thing,

Nothing but the bulrush yonder,
Nothing but the great Apukwa!"

And as Mudjekeewis, rising,
Stretched his hand to pluck the bul-
rush,

Hiawatha cried in terror,
Cried in well-dissembled terror, 140

"Kago! kago! do not touch it!"

"Ah, kaween!" said Mudjekeewis,

"No indeed, I will not touch it!"

Took her young life and her beauty,
Broke the Lily of the Prairie,
Trampled it beneath your footsteps;

You confess it! you confess it!"

And the mighty Mudjekeewis 160

Tossed upon the wind his tresses,

Bowed his hoary head in anguish.

With a silent nod assented.

Then up started Hiawatha,

And with threatening look and ges-
ture

Laid his hand upon the black rock,

On the fatal Wawbeek laid it,

"Glared like Iahkoodah, the comet,
Like the star with fiery tresses"

Then they talked of other matters;

First of Hiawatha's brothers,

First of Wabun, of the East-Wind,

Of the South-Wind, Shawondasee,

Of the North, Kabibonokka;

Then of Hiawatha's mother,

Of the beautiful Wenonah, 150

Of her birth upon the meadow,

Of her death, as old Nokomis

Had remembered and related.

And he cried, "O Mudjekeewis,

It was you who killed Wenonah,

With his mittens, Minjekahwun,

Rent the jutting crag asunder,

Smote and crushed it into fragments,

Hurled them madly at his father, 171

The remorseful Mudjekeewis,

For his heart was hot within him,

Like a living coal his heart was.

But the ruler of the West-Wind

Blew the fragments backward from

him,

With the breathing of his nostrils,

With the tempest of his anger,

Blew them back at his assailant;
 Seized the bulrush, the Apukwa, 180
 Dragged it with its roots and fibres
 From the margin of the meadow,
 From its ooze the giant bulrush;
 Long and loud laughed Hiawatha!

Then began the deadly conflict,
 Hand to hand among the mountains;
 From his eyry screamed the eagle,
 The Keneu, the great war-eagle,
 Sat upon the crags around them,
 Wheeling flapped his wings above
 them. 190

Like a tall tree in the tempest
 Bent and lashed the giant bulrush;
 And in masses huge and heavy
 Crashing fell the fatal Wawbeek;
 Till the earth shook with the tumult
 And confusion of the battle,
 And the air was full of shoutings,
 And the thunder of the mountains,
 Starting, answered, "Baim-wawa!"

Back retreated Mudjekeewis, 200
 Rushing westward o'er the mountains,
 Stumbling westward down the moun-
 tains,

Three whole days retreated fighting,
 Still pursued by Hiawatha
 To the doorways of the West-Wind,
 To the portals of the Sunset,
 To the earth's remotest border,
 Where into the empty spaces
 Sinks the sun, as a flamingo
 Drops into her nest at nightfall 210
 In the melancholy marshes.

"Hold!" at length cried Mudjee-
 wis,

"Hold, my son, my Hiawatha!
 'T is impossible to kill me,
 For you cannot kill the immortal.
 I have put you to this trial,
 But to know and prove your courage;
 Now receive the prize of valor!"

"Go back to your home and people,
 Live among them, toil among them,
 Cleanse the earth from all that harms
 it, 221

Clear the fishing-grounds and rivers,
 Slay all monsters and magicians,
 All the Wendigoes, the giants,
 All the serpents, the Kenabeeks,
 As I slew the Mishe-Mokwa,
 Slew the Great Bear of the mountains.

"And at last when Death draws
 near you,
 When the awful eyes of Pauguk

Glare upon you in the darkness, 230
 I will share my kingdom with you,
 Ruler shall you be thenceforward
 Of the Northwest-Wind, Keewaydin,
 Of the home-wind, the Keewaydin."

Thus was fought that famous battle
 In the dreadful days of Shah-shah,
 In the days long since departed,
 In the kingdom of the West-Wind.
 Still the hunter sees its traces
 Scattered far o'er hill and valley; 240
 Sees the giant bulrush growing
 By the ponds and water-courses,
 Sees the masses of the Wawbeek
 Lying still in every valley.

Homeward now went Hiawatha;
 Pleasant was the landscape round him,
 Pleasant was the air above him,
 For the bitterness of anger
 Had departed wholly from him,
 From his brain the thought of ven-
 geance, 250

From his heart the burning fever.
 Only once his pace he slackened,
 Only once he paused or halted,
 Paused to purchase heads of arrows
 Of the ancient Arrow-maker,
 In the land of the Dacotahs,
 Where the falls of Minnehaha
 Flash and gleam among the oak-trees,
 Laugh and leap into the valley.

There the ancient Arrow-maker 260
 Made his arrow-heads of sandstone,
 Arrow-heads of chalcedony,
 Arrow-heads of flint and jasper,
 Smoothed and sharpened at the edges,
 Hard and polished, keen and costly.
 With him dwelt his dark-eyed
 daughter,

Wayward as the Minnehaha,
 With her moods of shade and sun-
 shine,
 Eyes that smiled and frowned alter-
 nate,

Feet as rapid as the river, 270
 Tresses flowing like the water,
 And as musical a laughter:
 And he named her from the river,
 From the water-fall he named her,
 Minnehaha, Laughing Water.

Was it then for heads of arrows,
 Arrow-heads of chalcedony,
 Arrow-heads of flint and jasper,
 That my Hiawatha halted
 In the land of the Dacotahs? 280

Was it not to see the maiden,

See the face of Laughing Water
 Peeping from behind the curtain,
 Hear the rustling of her garments
 From behind the waving curtain,
 As one sees the Minnehaha
 Gleaming, glancing through the
 branches,
 As one hears the Laughing Water
 From behind its screen of branches?
 Who shall say what thoughts and
 visions 290
 Fill the fiery brains of young men?
 Who shall say what dreams of beauty
 Filled the heart of Hiawatha?
 All he told to old Nokomis,
 When he reached the lodge at sunset,
 Was the meeting with his father,
 Was his fight with Mudjekeewis;
 Not a word he said of arrows,
 Not a word of Laughing Water.

V

HIAWATHA'S FASTING

You shall hear how Hiawatha
 Prayed and fasted in the forest,
 Not for greater skill in hunting,
 Not for greater craft in fishing,
 Not for triumphs in the battle,
 And renown among the warriors,
 But for profit of the people,
 For advantage of the nations.
 First he built a lodge for fasting,
 Built a wigwam in the forest, 10
 By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
 In the blithe and pleasant Spring-time,
 In the Moon of Leaves he built it,
 And, with dreams and visions many,
 Seven whole days and nights he
 fasted.
 On the first day of his fasting
 Through the leafy woods he wan-
 dered;
 Saw the deer start from the thicket,
 Saw the rabbit in his burrow,
 Heard the pheasant, Bena, drum-
 ming, 20
 Heard the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
 Rattling in his hoard of acorns,
 Saw the pigeon, the Omeme,
 Building nests among the pine-trees,
 And in flocks the wild-goose, Wawa,
 Flying to the fen-lands northward,
 Whirring, wailing far above him.

"Master of Life!" he cried, despond-
 ing,

"Must our lives depend on these
 things?"

On the next day of his fasting 30
 By the river's brink he wandered,
 Through the Muskoday, the meadow,
 Saw the wild rice, Mahnomonee,
 Saw the blueberry, Meenahga,
 And the strawberry, Odahmin,
 And the gooseberry, Shahbomin,
 And the grape-vine, the Bemahgut,
 Trailing o'er the alder-branches,
 Filling all the air with fragrance!

"Master of Life!" he cried, despond-
 ing, 40

"Must our lives depend on these
 things?"

On the third day of his fasting
 By the lake he sat and pondered,
 By the still, transparent water;
 Saw the sturgeon, Nahma, leaping,
 Scattering drops like beads of wam-
 pum,

Saw the yellow perch, the Sahwa,
 Like a sunbeam in the water,
 Saw the pike, the Maskenozha,
 And the herring, Okahahwis, 50
 And the Shawgashee, the craw-fish!

"Master of Life!" he cried, despond-
 ing,

"Must our lives depend on these
 things?"

On the fourth day of his fasting
 In his lodge he lay exhausted;
 From his couch of leaves and branches
 Gazing with half-open eyelids,
 Full of shadowy dreams and visions,
 On the dizzy, swimming landscape,
 On the gleaming of the water, 60
 On the splendor of the sunset.

And he saw a youth approaching.
 Dressed in garments green and yellow,
 Coming through the purple twilight,
 Through the splendor of the sunset;
 Plumes of green bent o'er his forehead,
 And his hair was soft and golden.

Standing at the open doorway,
 Long he looked at Hiawatha,
 Looked with pity and compassion 70
 On his wasted form and features,
 And, in accents like the sighing
 Of the South-Wind in the tree-tops,
 Said he, "O my Hiawatha!
 All your prayers are heard in heaven,
 For you pray not like the others;

Not for greater skill in hunting,
 Not for greater craft in fishing,
 Not for triumph in the battle,
 Nor renown among the warriors, 80
 But for profit of the people,
 For advantage of the nations.

"From the Master of Life descending,
 ing,

I, the friend of man, Mondamin,
 Come to warn you and instruct you,
 How by struggle and by labor
 You shall gain what you have prayed
 for.

Rise up from your bed of branches,
 Rise, O youth, and wrestle with me!"

Faint with famine, Hiawatha 90

Started from his bed of branches,
 From the twilight of his wigwam
 Forth into the flush of sunset
 Came, and wrestled with Mondamin;
 At his touch he felt new courage
 Throbbing in his brain and bosom,
 Felt new life and hope and vigor
 Run through every nerve and fibre.

So they wrestled there together
 In the glory of the sunset, 100
 And the more they strove and struggled,

Stronger still grew Hiawatha;
 Till the darkness fell around them,
 And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
 From her nest among the pine-trees,
 Gave a cry of lamentation,
 Gave a scream of pain and famine.

"'Tis enough!" then said Mondamin,

Smiling upon Hiawatha,
 "But to-morrow, when the sun sets,
 I will come again to try you." 111

And he vanished, and was seen not;
 Whether sinking as the rain sinks,
 Whether rising as the mists rise,
 Hiawatha saw not, knew not,
 Only saw that he had vanished,
 Leaving him alone and fainting,
 With the misty lake below him,
 And the reeling stars above him.

On the morrow and the next day,
 When the sun through heaven descending,
 121

Like a red and burning cinder
 From the hearth of the Great Spirit,
 Fell into the western waters,
 Came Mondamin for the trial,
 For the strife with Hiawatha;
 Came as silent as the dew comes,

From the empty air appearing,
 Into empty air returning,
 Taking shape when earth it touches,
 But invisible to all men 131
 In its coming and its going.

Thrice they wrestled there together
 In the glory of the sunset,
 Till the darkness fell around them,
 Till the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
 From her nest among the pine-trees,
 Uttered her loud cry of famine,
 And Mondamin paused to listen.

Tall and beautiful he stood there, 140
 In his garments green and yellow;
 To and fro his plumes above him
 Waved and nodded with his breathing,

And the sweat of the encounter
 Stood like drops of dew upon him.

And he cried, "O Hiawatha!
 Bravely have you wrestled with me,
 Thrice have wrestled stoutly with me,
 And the Master of Life, who sees us
 He will give to you the triumph!" 150

Then he smiled, and said: "To-morrow

Is the last day of your conflict,
 Is the last day of your fasting.
 You will conquer and o'ercome me;
 Make a bed for me to lie in,
 Where the rain may fall upon me,
 Where the sun may come and warm
 me;

Strip these garments, green and yellow,

Strip this nodding plumage from me,
 Lay me in the earth, and make it 160
 Soft and loose and light above me.

"Let no hand disturb my slumber,
 Let no weed nor worm molest me,
 Let not Kahgahgee, the raven,
 Come to haunt me and molest me,
 Only come yourself to watch me,
 Till I wake, and start, and quicken,
 Till I leap into the sunshine."

And thus saying, he departed;
 Peacefully slept Hiawatha, 170
 But he heard the Wawonaissa,
 Heard the whippoorwill complaining.
 Perched upon his lonely wigwam;
 Heard the rushing Sebowisha,
 Heard the rivulet rippling near him,
 Talking to the darksome forest;
 Heard the sighing of the branches,
 As they lifted and subsided
 At the passing of the night-wind,

Heard them, as one hears in slumber
Far-off murmurs, dreamy whispers :
Peacefully slept Hiawatha. 182

On the morrow came Nokomis,
On the seventh day of his fasting,
Came with food for Hiawatha;
Came imploring and bewailing,
Lest his hunger should o'ercome him,
Lest his fasting should be fatal.

But he tasted not, and touched not,
Only said to her, " Nokomis, 190
Wait until the sun is setting,
Till the darkness falls around us,
Till the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
Crying from the desolate marshes,
Tells us that the day is ended."

Homeward weeping went Nokomis,
Sorrowing for her Hiawatha,
Fearing lest his strength should fail
him,

Lest his fasting should be fatal.
He meanwhile sat weary waiting 200
For the coming of Mondamin,
Till the shadows, pointing eastward,
Lengthened over field and forest,
Till the sun dropped from the heaven,
Floating on the waters westward,
As a red leaf in the Autumn
Falls and floats upon the water,
Falls and sinks into its bosom.

And behold! the young Mondamin,
With his soft and shining tresses, 210
With his garments green and yellow,
With his long and glossy plumage,
Stood and beckoned at the doorway.
And as one in slumber walking,
Pale and haggard, but undaunted,
From the wigwam Hiawatha
Came and wrestled with Mondamin.

Round about him spun the land-
scape,
Sky and forest reeled together,
And his strong heart leaped within
him, 220

As the sturgeon leaps and struggles
In a net to break its meshes.
Like a ring of fire around him
Blazed and flared the red horizon,
And a hundred suns seemed looking
At the combat of the wrestlers.

Suddenly upon the greensward
All alone stood Hiawatha,
Panting with his wild exertion,
Palpitating with the struggle ; 230
And before him breathless, lifeless,
Lay the youth, with hair dishevelled,

Plumage torn, and garments tattered,
Dead he lay there in the sunset.

And victorious Hiawatha
Made the grave as he commanded,
Stripped the garments from Mondamin,
Stripped his tattered plumage from
him,

Laid him in the earth, and made it
Soft and loose and light above him ;
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
From the melancholy moorlands, 242
Gave a cry of lamentation,
Gave a cry of pain and anguish!

Homeward then went Hiawatha
To the lodge of old Nokomis,
And the seven days of his fasting
Were accomplished and completed.
But the place was not forgotten
Where he wrestled with Mondamin;
Nor forgotten nor neglected 251
Was the grave where lay Mondamin,
Sleeping in the rain and sunshine,
Where his scattered plumes and garments

Faded in the rain and sunshine.

Day by day did Hiawatha
Go to wait and watch beside it ;
Kept the dark mould soft above it,
Kept it clean from weeds and insects,
Drove away, with scoffs and shout-
ings, 260

Kahgahgee, the king of ravens.

Till at length a small green feather
From the earth shot slowly upward,
Then another and another,
And before the Summer ended
Stood the maize in all its beauty,
With its shining robes about it,
And its long, soft, yellow tresses ;
And in rapture Hiawatha
Cried aloud, " It is Mondamin ! 270
Yes, the friend of man, Mondamin!"

Then he called to old Nokomis
And Iagoo, the great boaster,
Showed them where the maize was
growing,

Told them of his wondrous vision,
Of his wrestling and his triumph,
Of this new gift to the nations,
Which should be their food forever.

And still later, when the Autumn
Changed the long, green leaves to yellow, 280

And the soft and juicy kernels
Grew like wampum hard and yellow,

Then the ripened ears he gathered,
Stripped the withered husks from off
 them,
As he once had stripped the wrestler,
Gave the first Feast of Mondamin,
And made known unto the people
This new gift of the Great Spirit.

VI

HIAWATHA'S FRIENDS

Two good friends had Hiawatha,
Singled out from all the others,
Bound to him in closest union,
And to whom he gave the right hand
Of his heart, in joy and sorrow;
Chibiabos, the musician,
And the very strong man, Kwasind.

 Straight between them ran the path-
 way,

Never grew the grass upon it;
Singing birds, that utter falsehoods, 10
Story-tellers, mischief-makers,
Found no eager ear to listen,
Could not breed ill-will between them,
For they kept each other's counsel,
Spake with naked hearts together,
Pondering much and much contriving
How the tribes of men might prosper.

 Most beloved by Hiawatha
Was the gentle Chibiabos, 20
He the best of all musicians,
He the sweetest of all singers.
Beautiful and childlike was he,
Brave as man is, soft as woman,
Pliant as a wand of willow,
Stately as a deer with antlers.

 When he sang, the village listened;
All the warriors gathered round him,
All the women came to hear him;
Now he stirred their souls to passion,
Now he melted them to pity. 30

 From the hollow reeds he fashioned
Flutes so musical and mellow,
That the brook, the Sebowisha,
Ceased to murmur in the woodland,
That the wood-birds ceased from sing-
 ing,

And the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
Ceased his chatter in the oak-tree,
And the rabbit, the Wabasso,
Sat upright to look and listen.

 Yes, the brook, the Sebowisha, 40
Pausing, said, "O Chibiabos,

Teach my waves to flow in music,
Softly as your words in singing!"

 Yes, the bluebird, the Owaissa,
Envious, said, "O Chibiabos,
Teach me tones as wild and wayward,
Teach me songs as full of frenzy!"

 Yes, the robin, the Opechee,
Joyous, said, "O Chibiabos,
Teach me tones as sweet and tender,
Teach me songs as full of gladness!"

 And the whippoorwill, Wawo-
 naissa, 52

Sobbing, said, "O Chibiabos,
Teach me tones as melancholy,
Teach me songs as full of sadness!"

 All the many sounds of nature
Borrowed sweetness from his singing;
All the hearts of men were softened
By the pathos of his music;
For he sang of peace and freedom, 60
Sang of beauty, love, and longing;
Sang of death, and life undying
In the Islands of the Blessed,
In the kingdom of Ponemah,
In the land of the Hereafter.

 Very dear to Hiawatha
Was the gentle Chibiabos,
He the best of all musicians,
He the sweetest of all singers;
For his gentleness he loved him, 70
And the magic of his singing.

 Dear, too, unto Hiawatha
Was the very strong man, Kwasind,
He the strongest of all mortals,
He the mightiest among many;
For his very strength he loved him,
For his strength allied to goodness.

 Idle in his youth was Kwasind,
Very listless, dull, and dreamy,
Never played with other children, 80
Never fished and never hunted,
Not like other children was he;
But they saw that much he fasted,
Much his Manito entreated,
Much besought his Guardian Spirit.

 "Lazy Kwasind!" said his mother,
"In my work you never help me!
In the Summer you are roaming
Idly in the fields and forests;
In the Winter you are cowering 90
O'er the firebrands in the wigwam!
In the coldest days of Winter
I must break the ice for fishing;
With my nets you never help me!
At the door my nets are hanging,
Dripping, freezing with the water;

Go and wring them, Yenadizze!
Go and dry them in the sunshine!"

Slowly, from the ashes, Kwasind
Rose, but made no angry answer; 100
From the lodge went forth in silence,
Took the nets, that hung together,
Dripping, freezing at the doorway;
Like a wisp of straw he wrung them,
Like a wisp of straw he broke them,
Could not wring them without break-
ing,

Such the strength was in his fingers.

"Lazy Kwasind!" said his father,
"In the hunt you never help me;
Every bow you touch is broken, 110
Snapped asunder every arrow;
Yet come with me to the forest,
You shall bring the hunting home-
ward."

Down a narrow pass they wandered,
Where a brooklet led them onward,
Where the trail of deer and bison
Marked the soft mud on the margin,
Till they found all further passage
Shut against them, barred securely
By the trunks of trees uprooted, 120
Lying lengthwise, lying crosswise,
And forbidding further passage.

"We must go back," said the old
man,

"O'er these logs we cannot clamber;
Not a woodchuck could get through
them,

Not a squirrel clamber o'er them!"
And straightway his pipe he lighted,
And sat down to smoke and ponder.
But before his pipe was finished,
Lo! the path was cleared before him; 130
All the trunks had Kwasind lifted,
To the right hand, to the left hand,
Shot the pine-trees swift as arrows,
Hurled the cedars light as lances.

"Lazy Kwasind!" said the young
men,

As they sported in the meadow:
"Why stand idly looking at us,
Leaning on the rock behind you?
Come and wrestle with the others,
Let us pitch the quoit together!" 140

Lazy Kwasind made no answer,
To their challenge made no answer,
Only rose, and slowly turning,
Seized the huge rock in his fingers,
Tore it from its deep foundation,
Poised it in the air a moment,
Pitched it sheer into the river,

Sheer into the swift Pauwating,
Where it still is seen in Summer.

Once as down that foaming river, 150
Down the rapids of Pauwating,
Kwasind sailed with his companions
In the stream he saw a beaver,
Saw Ahmeek, the King of Beavers,
Struggling with the rushing currents,
Rising, sinking in the water.

Without speaking, without pausing,
Kwasind leaped into the river,
Plunged beneath the bubbling surface,
Through the whirlpools chased the
beaver, 160

Followed him among the islands,
Stayed so long beneath the water,
That his terrified companions
Cried, "Alas! good-by to Kwasind!
We shall never more see Kwasind!"
But he reappeared triumphant,
And upon his shining shoulders
Brought the beaver, dead and drip-
ping,

Brought the King of all the Beavers.

And these two, as I have told you, 170
Were the friends of Hiawatha,
Chibiabos, the musician,
And the very strong man, Kwasind.
Long they lived in peace together,
Spake with naked hearts together,
Pondering much and much contriving
How the tribes of men might prosper.

VII

HIAWATHA'S SAILING

"GIVE me of your bark, O Birch-tree!
Of your yellow bark, O Birch-tree!
Growing by the rushing river,
Tall and stately in the valley!
I a light canoe will build me,
Build a swift Cheemaun for sailing,
That shall float upon the river,
Like a yellow leaf in Autumn,
Like a yellow water-lily!

"Lay aside your cloak, O Birch-
tree! 180

Lay aside your white-skin wrapper,
For the Summer-time is coming,
And the sun is warm in heaven,
And you need no white-skin wrap-
per!"

Thus aloud cried Hiawatha
In the solitary forest,

By the rushing Taquamenaw,
When the birds were singing gayly,
In the Moon of Leaves were singing,
And the sun, from sleep awaking, 20
Started up and said, "Behold me!
Gheezis, the great Sun, behold me!"

And the tree with all its branches
Rustled in the breeze of morning,
Saying, with a sigh of patience,
"Take my cloak, O Hiawatha!"

With his knife the tree he girdled;
Just beneath its lowest branches,
Just above the roots, he cut it,
Till the sap came oozing outward; 30
Down the trunk, from top to bottom,
Sheer he cleft the bark asunder,
With a wooden wedge he raised it,
Stripped it from the trunk unbroken.

"Give me of your boughs, O Cedar!
Of your strong and pliant branches,
My canoe to make more steady,
Make more strong and firm beneath
me!"

Through the summit of the Cedar
Went a sound, a cry of horror, 40
Went a murmur of resistance;
But it whispered, bending downward,
"Take my boughs, O Hiawatha!"

Down he hewed the boughs of cedar,
Shaped them straightway to a frame-
work,
Like two bows he formed and shaped
them.
Like two bended bows together.

"Give me of your roots, O Tamarack!
Of your fibrous roots, O Larch-tree!
My canoe to bind together, 50
So to bind the ends together
That the water may not enter,
That the river may not wet me!"

And the Larch, with all its fibres,
Shivered in the air of morning,
Touched his forehead with its tassels,
Said, with one long sigh of sorrow,
"Take them all, O Hiawatha!"

From the earth he tore the fibres,
Tore the tough roots of the Larch-tree,
Closely sewed the bark together, 61
Bound it closely to the frame-work.

"Give me of your balm, O Fir-tree!
Of your balsam and your resin,
So to close the seams together
That the water may not enter,
That the river may not wet me!"

And the Fir-tree, tall and sombre,
Sobbed through all its robes of dark-
ness,

Rattled like a shore with pebbles, 70
Answered wailing, answered weep-
ing,

"Take my balm, O Hiawatha!"

And he took the tears of balsam,
Took the resin of the Fir-tree,
Smeared therewith each seam and fis-
sure,

Made each crevice safe from water.

"Give me of your quills, O Hedge-
hog!"

All your quills, O Kagh, the Hedge-
hog!

I will make a necklace of them,
Make a girdle for my beauty, 80
And two stars to deck her bosom!"

From a hollow tree the Hedgehog
With his sleepy eyes looked at him,
Shot his shining quills, like arrows,
Saying with a drowsy murmur,
Through the tangle of his whiskers,
"Take my quills, O Hiawatha!"

From the ground the quills he gath-
ered,

All the little shining arrows,
Stained them red and blue and yel-
low, 90

With the juice of roots and berries;
Into his canoe he wrought them,
Round its waist a shining girdle,
Round its bows a gleaming necklace,
On its breast two stars resplendent.

Thus the Birch Canoe was builded
In the valley, by the river,
In the bosom of the forest;
And the forest's life was in it,
All its mystery and its magic, 100
All the lightness of the birch-tree,
All the toughness of the cedar,
All the larch's supple sinews;
And it floated on the river
Like a yellow leaf in Autumn,
Like a yellow water-lily.

Paddles none had Hiawatha,
Paddles none he had or needed,
For his thoughts as paddles served
him, 109

And his wishes served to guide him;
Swift or slow at will he glided,
Veered to right or left at pleasure.

Then he called aloud to Kwasind,
To his friend, the strong man, Kwa-
sind,

Saying, "Help me clear this river
Of its sunken logs and sand-bars."

Straight into the river Kwasind
Plunged as if he were an otter,
Dived as if he were a beaver,
Stood up to his waist in water, 120
To his arm-pits in the river,
Swam and shouted in the river,
Tugged at sunken logs and branches,
With his hands he scooped the sand-
bars,

With his feet the ooze and tangle.

And thus sailed my Hiawatha
Down the rushing Taquamenaw,
Sailed through all its bends and wind-
ings,

Sailed through all its deeps and shal-
lows,

While his friend, the strong man,
Kwasind, 130

Swam the deeps, the shallows waded.

Up and down the river went they,
In and out among its islands,
Cleared its bed of root and sand-bar,
Dragged the dead trees from its chan-
nel,

Made its passage safe and certain,
Made a pathway for the people,
From its springs among the moun-
tains,

To the waters of Pauwating,
To the bay of Taquamenaw. 140

VIII

HIAWATHA'S FISHING

FORTH upon the Gitche Gumee,
On the shining Big-Sea-Water,
With his fishing-line of cedar,
Of the twisted bark of cedar,
Forth to catch the sturgeon Nahma,
Mishe-Nahma, King of Fishes,
In his birch canoe exulting
All alone went Hiawatha.

Through the clear, transparent wa-
ter

He could see the fishes swimming 10
Far down in the depths below him;
See the yellow perch, the Sahwa,
Like a sunbeam in the water,
See the Shawgashee, the craw-fish,
Like a spider on the bottom,
On the white and sandy bottom.

At the stern sat Hiawatha,
With his fishing-line of cedar;

In his plumes the breeze of morning
Played as in the hemlock branches; 20
On the bows, with tail erected,
Sat the squirrel, Adjidaumo;
In his fur the breeze of morning
Played as in the prairie grasses.

On the white sand of the bottom
Lay the monster Mishe-Nahma,
Lay the sturgeon, King of Fishes;
Through his gills he breathed the wa-
ter,

With his fins he fanned and win-
nowed,

With his tail he swept the sand-floor.

There he lay in all his armor: 30
On each side a shield to guard him,
Plates of bone upon his forehead,
Down his sides and back and shoul-
ders

Plates of bone with spines project-
ing!

Painted was he with his war-paints,
Stripes of yellow, red, and azure,
Spots of brown and spots of sable;
And he lay there on the bottom,
Fanning with his fins of purple, 40

As above him Hiawatha

In his birch canoe came sailing,

With his fishing-line of cedar.

"Take my bait," cried Hiawatha,
Down into the depths beneath him,
"Take my bait, O Sturgeon, Nahma!
Come up from below the water,
Let us see which is the stronger!"
And he dropped his line of cedar
Through the clear, transparent wa-
ter, 50

Waited vainly for an answer,
Long sat waiting for an answer,
And repeating loud and louder,
"Take my bait, O King of Fishes!"

Quiet lay the sturgeon, Nahma,
Fanning slowly in the water,
Looking up at Hiawatha,
Listening to his call and clamor,
His unnecessary tumult,
Till he wearied of the shouting; 60

And he said to the Kenozha,
To the pike, the Maskenozha,
"Take the bait of this rude fellow,
Break the line of Hiawatha!"

In his fingers Hiawatha
Felt the loose line jerk and tighten;
As he drew it in, it tugged so
That the birch canoe stood endwise,
Like a birch log in the water,

With the squirrel, Adjidaumo, 70
Perched and frisking on the summit.

Full of scorn was Hiawatha
When he saw the fish rise upward,
Saw the pike, the Maskenozha,
Coming nearer, nearer to him,
And he shouted through the water,
"Esa! esa! shame upon you!
You are but the pike, Kenozha,

Reached the far-off sandy beaches,
Till the water-flags and rushes
Nodded on the distant margins.

But when Hiawatha saw him 100
Slowly rising through the water,
Lifting up his disk refulgent,
Loud he shouted in derision,
"Esa! esa! shame upon you!
You are Ugudwash, the sun-fish,

"Long sat waiting for an answer"

You are not the fish I wanted,
You are not the King of Fishes!" 80

Reeling downward to the bottom
Sank the pike in great confusion,
And the mighty sturgeon, Nahma,
Said to Ugudwash, the sun fish,
To the bream, with scales of crimson,
"Take the bait of this great boaster,
Break the line of Hiawatha!"

Slowly upward, wavering, gleam-
ing.

Rose the Ugudwash, the sun-fish,
Seized the line of Hiawatha, 90
Swung with all his weight upon it,
Made a whirlpool in the water,
Whirled the birch canoe in circles,
Round and round in gurgling eddies,
Till the circles in the water

You are not the fish I wanted,
You are not the King of Fishes!"

Slowly downward, wavering, gleam-
ing,

Sank the Ugudwash, the sun-fish,
And again the sturgeon, Nahma,
Heard the shout of Hiawatha, 110
Heard his challenge of defiance,
The unnecessary tumult,
Ringing far across the water.

From the white sand of the bottom
Up he rose with angry gesture,
Quivering in each nerve and fibre,
Clashing all his plates of armor,
Gleaming bright with all his war-
paint;

In his wrath he darted upward,
Flashing leaped into the sunshine, 120

Opened his great jaws, and swallowed
Both canoe and Hiawatha.

Down into that darksome cavern
Plunged the headlong Hiawatha,
As a log on some black river
Shoots and plunges down the rapids,
Found himself in utter darkness,
Groped about in helpless wonder,
Till he felt a great heart beating,
Throbbing in that utter darkness. 130

And he smote it in his anger,
With his fist, the heart of Nahma,
Felt the mighty King of Fishes
Shudder through each nerve and fibre,
Heard the water gurgle round him
As he leaped and staggered through
it,

Sick at heart, and faint and weary.

Crosswise then did Hiawatha
Drag his birch-canoe for safety,
Lest from out the jaws of Nahma, 140
In the turmoil and confusion,
Forth he might be hurled and perish.
And the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
Frisked and chattered very gayly,
Toiled and tugged with Hiawatha
Till the labor was completed.

Then said Hiawatha to him,
"O my little friend, the squirrel,
Bravely have you toiled to help me;
Take the thanks of Hiawatha, 150
And the name which now he gives
you;

For hereafter and forever
Boys shall call you Adjidaumo,
Tail-in-air the boys shall call you!"

And again the sturgeon, Nahma,
Gasped and quivered in the water,
Then was still, and drifted landward
Till he grated on the pebbles,
Till the listening Hiawatha
Heard him grate upon the margin, 160
Felt him strand upon the pebbles,
Knew that Nahma, King of Fishes,
Lay there dead upon the margin.

Then he heard a clang and flapping,
As of many wings assembling,
Heard a screaming and confusion,
As of birds of prey contending,
Saw a gleam of light above him,
Shining through the ribs of Nahma,
Saw the glittering eyes of sea-gulls, 170
Of Kayoshk, the sea-gulls, peering,
Gazing at him through the opening,
Heard them saying to each other,
"'T is our brother, Hiawatha!"

And he shouted from below them,
Cried exulting from the caverns:
"O ye sea-gulls! O my brothers!
I have slain the sturgeon, Nahma,
Make the rifts a little larger,
With your claws the openings wider.
Set me free from this dark prison, 180
And henceforward and forever
Men shall speak of your achievements,
Calling you Kayoshk, the sea-gulls,
Yes, Kayoshk, the Noble Scratch-
ers!"

And the wild and clamorous sea-
gulls
Toiled with beak and claws together.
Made the rifts and openings wider
In the mighty ribs of Nahma,
And from peril and from prison, 190
From the body of the sturgeon,
From the peril of the water,
They released my Hiawatha.

He was standing near his wigwam,
On the margin of the water,
And he called to old Nokomis,
Called and beckoned to Nokomis,
Pointed to the sturgeon, Nahma,
Lying lifeless on the pebbles,
With the sea-gulls feeding on him. 200

"I have slain the Mishe-Nahma,
Slain the King of Fishes!" said he;
"Look! the sea-gulls feed upon him,
Yes, my friends Kayoshk, the sea-
gulls;

Drive them not away, Nokomis,
They have saved me from great peril
In the body of the sturgeon,
Wait until their meal is ended,
Till their craws are full with feasting,
Till they homeward fly, at sunset, 210
To their nests among the marshes;
Then bring all your pots and kettles,
And make oil for us in Winter."

And she waited till the sun set,
Till the pallid moon, the Night-sun,
Rose above the tranquil water,
Till Kayoshk, the sated sea-gulls,
From their banquet rose with clamor,
And across the fiery sunset
Winged their way to far-off islands, 220
To their nests among the rushes.

To his sleep went Hiawatha,
And Nokomis to her labor,
Toiling patient in the moonlight,
Till the sun and moon changed places,
Till the sky was red with sunrise,
And Kayoshk, the hungry sea-gulls,

Came back from the reedy islands,
Clamorous for their morning banquet.

Three whole days and nights alter-
nate 230

Old Nokomis and the sea-gulls
Stripped the oily flesh of Nahma,
Till the waves washed through the
rib-bones,
Till the sea-gulls came no longer,
And upon the sands lay nothing
But the skeleton of Nahma

IX

HIAWATHA AND THE PEARL-FEATHER

ON the shores of Gitche Gumee,
Of the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Stood Nokomis, the old woman,
Pointing with her finger westward,
O'er the water pointing westward,
To the purple clouds of sunset.

Fiercely the red sun descending
Burned his way along the heavens,
Set the sky on fire behind him,
As war-parties, when retreating, 10
Burn the prairies on their war-trail;
And the moon, the Night-sun, east-
ward,

Suddenly starting from his ambush,
Followed fast those bloody footprints,
Followed in that fiery war-trail,
With its glare upon his features.

And Nokomis, the old woman,
Pointing with her finger westward,
Spake these words to Hiawatha:
"Yonder dwells the great Pearl-
Feather, 20

Megissogwon, the Magician,
Manito of Wealth and Wampum,
Guarded by his fiery serpents,
Guarded by the black pitch-water.
You can see his fiery serpents,
The Kenabeek, the great serpents,
Coiling, playing in the water;
You can see the black pitch-water
Stretching far away beyond them,
To the purple clouds of sunset! 30

"He it was who slew my father,
By his wicked wiles and cunning,
When he from the moon descended,
When he came on earth to seek me.
He, the mightiest of Magicians,
Sends the fever from the marshes,
Sends the pestilential vapors,

Sends the poisonous exhalations,
Sends the white fog from the fen-lands,
Sends disease and death among us! 40

"Take your bow, O Hiawatha,
Take your arrows, jasper-headed,
Take your war-club. Puggawaugun,
And your mittens, Minjekahwun,
And your birch-canoe for sailing,
And the oil of Mishe-Nahma,
So to smear its sides, that swiftly
You may pass the black pitch-water
Slay this merciless magician,
Save the people from the fever. 50
That he breathes across the fen-lands,
And avenge my father's murder!"

Straightway then my Hiawatha
Armed himself with all his war-gear,
Launched his birch-canoe for sailing;
With his palm its sides he patted,
Said with glee, "Cheemaun, my dar-
ling,
O my Birch-canoe! leap forward,
Where you see the fiery serpents,
Where you see the black pitch-wa-
ter!" 60

Forward leaped Cheemaun exult-
ing,
And the noble Hiawatha
Sang his war-song wild and woful,
And above him the war-eagle,
The Keneu, the great war-eagle,
Master of all fowls with feathers,
Screamed and hurtled through the
heavens.

Soon he reached the fiery serpents,
The Kenabeek, the great serpents,
Lying huge upon the water, 70
Sparkling, rippling in the water,
Lying coiled across the passage,
With their blazing crests uplifted,
Breathing fiery fogs and vapors,
So that none could pass beyond them.

But the fearless Hiawatha
Cried aloud, and spake in this wise,
"Let me pass my way, Kenabeek,
Let me go upon my journey!" 75
And they answered, hissing fiercely,
With their fiery breath made answer:
"Back, go back! O Shaugodaya!
Back to old Nokomis, Faint-heart!"

Then the angry Hiawatha
Raised his mighty bow of ash-tree,
Seized his arrows, jasper-headed,
Shot them fast among the serpents;
Every twanging of the bow-string
Was a war-cry and a death-cry,

Every whizzing of an arrow 90
Was a death-song of Kenabeek.

Weltering in the bloody water,
Dead lay all the fiery serpents,
And among them Hiawatha
Harmless sailed, and cried exulting :
"Onward, O Cheemaun, my darling!
Onward to the black pitch-water!"

Then he took the oil of Nahma,
And the bows and sides anointed,
Smeared them well with oil, that
swiftly 100

He might pass the black pitch-water.

All night long he sailed upon it,
Sailed upon that sluggish water,
Covered with its mould of ages,
Black with rotting water-rushes,
Rank with flags and leaves of lilies,
Stagnant, lifeless, dreary, dismal,
Lighted by the shimmering moonlight,
And by will-o'-the-wisps illumined,
Fires by ghosts of dead men kindled,
In their weary night-encampments.

All the air was white with moon-
light, 112

All the water black with shadow,
And around him the Suggema,
The mosquito, sang his war-song,
And the fire-flies, Wah-wah-taysee,
Waved their torches to mislead him ;
And the bull-frog, the Dahinda,
Thrust his head into the moonlight,
Fixed his yellow eyes upon him, 120
Sobbed and sank beneath the surface ;
And anon a thousand whistles
Answered over all the fen-lands,
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
Far off on the reedy margin,
Heralded the hero's coming.

Westward thus fared Hiawatha,
Toward the realm of Megissogwon,
Toward the land of the Pearl-Feather,
Till the level moon stared at him, 130
In his face stared pale and haggard,
Till the sun was hot behind him,
Till it burned upon his shoulders,
And before him on the upland
He could see the Shining Wigwam
Of the Manito of Wampum,
Of the mightiest of Magicians.

Then once more Cheemaun he
patted,

To his birch-canoe said, "Onward!"
And it stirred in all its fibres, 140
And with one great bound of triumph
Leaped across the water-lilies,

Leaped through tangled flags and
rushes,

And upon the beach beyond them
Dry-shod landed Hiawatha.

Straight he took his bow of ash-tree,
On the sand one end he rested,
With his knee he pressed the middle,
Stretched the faithful bow-string
tighter,

Took an arrow, jasper-headed, 150
Shot it at the Shining Wigwam,
Sent it singing as a herald,
As a bearer of his message,
Of his challenge loud and lofty:

"Come forth from your lodge, Pearl-
Feather!

Hiawatha waits your coming!"

Straightway from the Shining Wig-
wam

Came the mighty Megissogwon,
Tall of stature, broad of shoulder,
Dark and terrible in aspect, 160
Clad from head to foot in wampum,
Armed with all his warlike weapons,
Painted like the sky of morning,
Streaked with crimson, blue, and yel-
low,

Crested with great eagle-feathers,
Streaming upward, streaming out
ward.

"Well I know you, Hiawatha!"

Cried he in a voice of thunder,
In a tone of loud derision.

"Hasten back, O Shaugodaya! 170
Hasten back among the women,
Back to old Nokomis, Faint-heart!
I will slay you as you stand there,
As of old I slew her father!"

But my Hiawatha answered,
Nothing daunted, fearing nothing :
"Big words do not smite like war-
clubs,

Boastful breath is not a bow-string,
Taunts are not so sharp as arrows,
Deeds are better things than words
are, 180

Actions mightier than boastings!"

Then began the greatest battle
That the sun had ever looked on,
That the war-birds ever witnessed.

All a Summer's day it lasted,
From the sunrise to the sunset ;
For the shafts of Hiawatha
Harmless hit the shirt of wampum,
Harmless fell the blows he dealt it
With his mittens, Minjekahwun, 190

Harmless fell the heavy war-club;
It could dash the rocks asunder,
But it could not break the meshes
Of that magic shirt of wampum.

Till at sunset Hiawatha,
Leaning on his bow of ash-tree,
Wounded, weary, and desponding,
With his mighty war-club broken,
With his mittens torn and tattered,
And three useless arrows only, 200
Paused to rest beneath a pine-tree,
From whose branches trailed the
mosses,

And whose trunk was coated over
With the Dead-man's Moccasin-
leather,

With the fungus white and yellow.

Suddenly from the boughs above
him

Sang the Mama, the woodpecker :

" Aim your arrows, Hiawatha,
At the head of Megissogwon,
Strike the tuft of hair upon it, 210
At their roots the long black tresses;
There alone can he be wounded ! "

Winged with feathers, tipped with
jasper,

Swift flew Hiawatha's arrow,
Just as Megissogwon, stooping,
Raised a heavy stone to throw it.
Full upon the crown it struck him,
At the roots of his long tresses,
And he reeled and staggered forward,
Plunging like a wounded bison, 220
Yes, like Pezhekee, the bison,
When the snow is on the prairie.

Swifter flew the second arrow,
In the pathway of the other,
Piercing deeper than the other,
Wounding sorer than the other ;
And the knees of Megissogwon
Shook like windy reeds beneath him,
Bent and trembled like the rushes.

But the third and latest arrow 230
Swiftest flew, and wounded sorest,
And the mighty Megissogwon
Saw the fiery eyes of Pauguk,
Saw the eyes of Death glare at him,
Heard his voice call in the darkness ;
At the feet of Hiawatha
Lifeless lay the great Pearl-Feather
Lay the mightiest of Magicians.

Then the grateful Hiawatha
Called the Mama, the woodpecker, 240
From his perch among the branches
Of the melancholy pine-tree,

And, in honor of his service,
Stained with blood the tuft of feath-
ers

On the little head of Mama ;
Even to this day he wears it,
Wears the tuft of crimson feathers,
As a symbol of his service.

Then he stripped the shirt of wam-
pum

From the back of Megissogwon, 250
As a trophy of the battle,
As a signal of his conquest.

On the shore he left the body,
Half on land and half in water,
In the sand his feet were buried,
And his face was in the water.
And above him, wheeled and clamored
The Keneu, the great war-eagle,
Sailing round in narrower circles,
Hovering nearer, nearer, nearer. 260

From the wigwam Hiawatha
Bore the wealth of Megissogwon,
All his wealth of skins and wampum,
Furs of bison and of beaver,
Furs of sable and of ermine,
Wampum belts and strings and
pouches,

Quivers wrought with beads of wam-
pum,
Filled with arrows, silver-headed.

Homeward then he sailed exulting,
Homeward through the black pitch-
water, 270

Homeward through the weltering ser-
pents,

With the trophies of the battle,
With a shout and song of triumph.

On the shore stood old Nokomis,
On the shore stood Chibiabos,
And the very strong man, Kwasind,
Waiting for the hero's coming,
Listening to his songs of triumph.

And the people of the village
Welcomed him with songs and dances,
Made a joyous feast, and shouted : 281
" Honor be to Hiawatha !

He has slain the great Pearl-Feather,
Slain the mightiest of Magicians,
Him, who sent the fiery fever,
Sent the white fog from the fen-lands,
Sent disease and death among us ! "

Ever dear to Hiawatha
Was the memory of Mama !
And in token of his friendship, 290
As a mark of his remembrance,
He adorned and decked his pipe-stem

With the crimson tuft of feathers,
 With the blood-red crest of Mama.
 But the wealth of Megissogwon,
 All the trophies of the battle,
 He divided with his people,
 Shared it equally among them.

X

HIAWATHA'S WOOING

"As unto the bow the cord is,
 So unto the man is woman;
 Though she bends him, she obeys him,
 Though she draws him, yet she fol-
 lows;

Useless each without the other!"

Thus the youthful Hiawatha
 Said within himself and pondered,
 Much perplexed by various feelings,
 Listless, longing, hoping, fearing,
 Dreaming still of Minnehaha, 10
 Of the lovely Laughing Water,
 In the land of the Dacotahs.

"Wed a maiden of your people,"
 Warning said the old Nokomis;
 "Go not eastward, go not westward,
 For a stranger, whom we know not!
 Like a fire upon the hearth-stone
 Is a neighbor's homely daughter,
 Like the starlight or the moonlight
 Is the handsomest of strangers!" 20

Thus dissuading spake Nokomis:
 And my Hiawatha answered
 Only this: "Dear old Nokomis,
 Very pleasant is the firelight,
 But I like the starlight better,
 Better do I like the moonlight!"

Gravely then said old Nokomis:
 "Bring not here an idle maiden,
 Bring not here a useless woman,
 Hands unskilful, feet unwilling: 30
 Bring a wife with nimble fingers,
 Heart and hand that move together,
 Feet that run on willing errands!"

Smiling answered Hiawatha:
 "In the land of the Dacotahs
 Lives the Arrow-maker's daughter,
 Minnehaha, Laughing Water,
 Handsomest of all the women.
 I will bring her to your wigwam,
 She shall run upon your errands, 40
 Be your starlight, moonlight, fire-
 light,
 Be the sunlight of my people!"

Still dissuading said Nokomis:
 "Bring not to my lodge a stranger
 From the land of the Dacotahs!
 Very fierce are the Dacotahs,
 Often is there war between us,
 There are feuds yet unforgotten,
 Wounds that ache and still may
 open!"

Laughing answered Hiawatha: 50
 "For that reason, if no other,
 Would I wed the fair Dacotah,
 That our tribes might be united,
 That old feuds might be forgotten,
 And old wounds be healed forever!"

Thus departed Hiawatha
 To the land of the Dacotahs,
 To the land of handsome women;
 Striding over moor and meadow,
 Through interminable forests, 60
 Through uninterrupted silence.

With his moccasins of magic,
 At each stride a mile he measured;
 Yet the way seemed long before him,
 And his heart outran his footsteps;
 And he journeyed without resting,
 Till he heard the cataract's laughter,
 Heard the Falls of Minnehaha
 Calling to him through the silence,
 "Pleasant is the sound!" he mur-
 mured, 70

"Pleasant is the voice that calls me!"
 On the outskirts of the forests,
 'Twixt the shadow and the sunshine,
 Herds of fallow deer were feeding,
 But they saw not Hiawatha;
 To his bow he whispered, "Fail
 not!"

To his arrow whispered, "Swerve
 not!"
 Sent it singing on its errand,
 To the red heart of the roebuck;
 Threw the deer across his shoulder, 80
 And sped forward without pausing.

At the doorway of his wigwam
 Sat the ancient Arrow-maker,
 In the land of the Dacotahs,
 Making arrow-heads of jasper,
 Arrow-heads of chalcedony.
 At his side, in all her beauty,
 Sat the lovely Minnehaha,
 Sat his daughter, Laughing Water,
 Plaiting mats of flags and rushes; 90
 Of the past the old man's thoughts
 were,

And the maiden's of the future.
 He was thinking, as he sat there,

Of the days when with such arrows
 He had struck the deer and bison,
 On the Muskoday, the meadow;
 Shot the wild goose, flying southward,
 On the wing, the clamorous Wawa;
 Thinking of the great war-parties,
 How they came to buy his arrows, 100
 Could not fight without his arrows.
 Ah, no more such noble warriors
 Could be found on earth as they were!
 Now the men were all like women,
 Only used their tongues for weapons!

She was thinking of a hunter,
 From another tribe and country,
 Young and tall and very handsome,
 Who one morning, in the Spring-time,
 Came to buy her father's arrows, 110
 Sat and rested in the wigwam,
 Lingered long about the doorway,
 Looking back as he departed.
 She had heard her father praise him,
 Praise his courage and his wisdom;
 Would he come again for arrows
 To the Falls of Minnehaha?
 On the mat her hands lay idle,
 And her eyes were very dreamy.

Through their thoughts they heard
 a footstep, 120
 Heard a rustling in the branches,
 And with glowing cheek and forehead,
 With the deer upon his shoulders,
 Suddenly from out the woodlands
 Hiawatha stood before them.

Straight the ancient Arrow-maker
 Looked up gravely from his labor,
 Laid aside the unfinished arrow,
 Bade him enter at the doorway,
 Saying, as he rose to meet him, 130
 "Hiawatha, you are welcome!"

At the feet of Laughing Water
 Hiawatha laid his burden,
 Threw the red deer from his shoulders;

And the maiden looked up at him,
 Looked up from her mat of rushes,
 Said with gentle look and accent,
 "You are welcome, Hiawatha!"

Very spacious was the wigwam,
 Made of deer-skins dressed and whitened, 140
 With the Gods of the Dacotahs
 Drawn and painted on its curtains,
 And so tall the doorway, hardly
 Hiawatha stooped to enter,
 Hardly touched his eagle-feathers
 As he entered at the doorway.

Then uprose the Laughing Water,
 From the ground fair Minnehaha,
 Laid aside her mat unfinished,
 Brought forth food and set before
 them, 150

Water brought them from the brook-
 let,

Gave them food in earthen vessels,
 Gave them drink in bowls of bass-
 wood,

Listened while the guest was speaking,
 Listened while her father answered,
 But not once her lips she opened,
 Not a single word she uttered.

Yes, as in a dream she listened
 To the words of Hiawatha,
 As he talked of old Nokomis, 160
 Who had nursed him in his childhood,
 As he told of his companions,
 Chibiabos, the musician,
 And the very strong man, Kwasind,
 And of happiness and plenty
 In the land of the Ojibways,
 In the pleasant land and peaceful.

"After many years of warfare,
 Many years of strife and bloodshed,
 There is peace between the Ojib-
 ways 170

And the tribe of the Dacotahs."
 Thus continued Hiawatha,
 And then added, speaking slowly,
 "That this peace may last forever,
 And our hands be clasped more closely,
 And our hearts be more united,
 Give me as my wife this maiden,
 Minnehaha, Laughing Water,
 Loveliest of Dacotah women!"

And the ancient Arrow-maker 180
 Paused a moment ere he answered,
 Smoked a little while in silence,
 Looked at Hiawatha proudly,
 Fondly looked at Laughing Water,
 And made answer very gravely:

"Yes, if Minnehaha wishes;
 Let your heart speak, Minnehaha!"

And the lovely Laughing Water
 Seemed more lovely as she stood there,
 Neither willing nor reluctant, 190
 As she went to Hiawatha,
 Softly took the seat beside him,
 While she said, and blushed to say it,
 "I will follow you, my husband!"

This was Hiawatha's wooing!
 Thus it was he won the daughter
 Of the ancient Arrow-maker,
 In the land of the Dacotahs!

From the wigwam he departed,
 Leading with him Laughing Water;
 Hand in hand they went together, 201
 Through the woodland and the
 meadow,
 Left the old man standing lonely
 At the doorway of his wigwam,
 Heard the Falls of Minnehaha
 Calling to them from the distance,
 Crying to them from afar off,
 "Fare thee well, O Minnehaha!"
 And the ancient Arrow-maker
 Turned again unto his labor, 220

And she follows where he leads her,
 Leaving all things for the stranger!"
 Pleasant was the journey homeward,
 Through interminable forests,
 Over meadow, over mountain,
 Over river, hill, and hollow.
 Short it seemed to Hiawatha,
 Though they journeyed very slowly,
 Though his pace he checked and
 slackened
 To the steps of Laughing Water. 23-
 Over wide and rushing rivers
 In his arms he bore the maiden;

"I will follow you, my husband!"

Sat down by his sunny doorway,
 Murmuring to himself, and saying:
 "Thus it is our daughters leave us,
 Those we love, and those who love us!
 Just when they have learned to help
 us,
 When we are old and lean upon them,
 Comes a youth with flaunting feath-
 ers,
 With his flute of reeds, a stranger
 Wanders piping through the village,
 Beckons to the fairest maiden, 220

Light he thought her as a feather,
 As the plume upon his head-gear.
 Cleared the tangled pathway for her
 Bent aside the swaying branches,
 Made at night a lodge of branches,
 And a bed with boughs of hemlock,
 And a fire before the doorway
 With the dry cones of the pine-tree. 240
 All the travelling winds went with
 them,
 O'er the meadows, through the forest;
 All the stars of night looked at them,

Watched with sleepless eyes their
slumber;
From his ambush in the oak-tree
Peeped the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
Watched with eager eyes the lovers;
And the rabbit, the Wabasso,
Scampered from the path before them,
Peering, peeping from his burrow, 250
Sat erect upon his haunches,
Watched with curious eyes the lovers.
Pleasant was the journey home-
ward!

All the birds sang loud and sweetly
Songs of happiness and heart's-ease;
Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,
"Happy are you, Hiawatha,
Having such a wife to love you!"
Sang the robin, the Opechee,
"Happy are you, Laughing Water, 260
Having such a noble husband!"

From the sky the sun benignant
Looked upon them through the
branches,
Saying to them, "O my children,
Love is sunshine, hate is shadow,
Life is checkered shade and sunshine,
Rule by love, O Hiawatha!"

From the sky the moon looked at
them,
Filled the lodge with mystic splendors,
Whispered to them, "O my children,
Day is restless, night is quiet, 271
Man imperious, woman feeble;
Half is mine, although I follow;
Rule by patience, Laughing Water!"
Thus it was they journeyed home-
ward;

Thus it was that Hiawatha
To the lodge of old Nokomis
Brought the moonlight, starlight,
firelight,
Brought the sunshine of his people,
Minnehaha, Laughing Water, 280
Handsome of all the women
In the land of the Dacotahs,
In the land of handsome women.

XI

HIAWATHA'S WEDDING-FEAST

You shall hear how Pau-Puk-Keewis,
How the handsome Yenadizze
Danced at Hiawatha's wedding;
How the gentle Chibiabos,

He the sweetest of musicians,
Sang his songs of love and longing;
How Iagoo the great boaster,
He the marvellous story-teller,
Told his tales of strange adventure,
That the feast might be more joyous,
That the time might pass more gayly,
And the guests be more contented. 12

Sumptuous was the feast Nokomis
Made at Hiawatha's wedding;
All the bowls were made of bass-wood,
White and polished very smoothly,
All the spoons of horn of bison,
Black and polished very smoothly.

She had sent through all the village
Messengers with wands of willow, 20
As a sign of invitation,
As a token of the feasting;
And the wedding guests assembled,
Clad in all their richest raiment,
Robes of fur and belts of wampum,
Splendid with their paint and plumage,
Beautiful with beads and tassels.

First they ate the sturgeon, Nahma,
And the pike, the Maskenozha,
Caught and cooked by old Nokomis;
Then on pemican they feasted, 31
Pemican and buffalo marrow,
Haunch of deer and hump of bison,
Yellow cakes of the Mondamin,
And the wild rice of the river.

But the gracious Hiawatha,
And the lovely Laughing Water,
And the careful old Nokomis,
Tasted not the food before them,
Only waited on the others, 40
Only served their guests in silence.

And when all the guests had fin-
ished,
Old Nokomis, brisk and busy,
From an ample pouch of otter,
Filled the red-stone pipes for smoking
With tobacco from the South-land,
Mixed with bark of the red willow,
And with herbs and leaves of fra-
grance.

Then she said, "O Pau-Puk-Kee-
wis,
Dance for us your merry dances, 50
Dance the Beggar's Dance to please
us,

That the feast may be more joyous,
That the time may pass more gayly,
And our guests be more contented!"

Then the handsome Pau-Puk-Kee-
wis,

He the idle Yenadizze,
He the merry mischief-maker,
Whom the people called the Storm-
Fool,

Rose among the guests assembled.

Skilled was he in sports and pas-
times, 60

In the merry dance of snow-shoes,
In the play of quoits and ball-play ;
Skilled was he in games of hazard,
In all games of skill and hazard,
Pugasaing, the Bowl and Counters,
Kuntassoo, the Game of Plum-stones.
Though the warriors called him Faint-
Heart,

Called him coward, Shaugodaya,
Idler, gambler, Yenadizze,
Little heeded he their jesting, 70
Little cared he for their insults,
For the women and the maidens
Loved the handsome Pau-Puk-Keewis.

He was dressed in shirt of doeskin,
White and soft, and fringed with er-
mine,

All inwrought with beads of wam-
pum ;

He was dressed in deer-skin leggings,
Fringed with hedgehog quills and er-
mine,

And in moccasins of buckskin,
Thick with quills and beads embroid-
ered. 80

On his head were plumes of swan's
down,

On his heels were tails of foxes,
In one hand a fan of feathers,
And a pipe was in the other.

Barred with streaks of red and yel-
low,

Streaks of blue and bright vermillion,
Shone the face of Pau-Puk-Keewis.

From his forehead fell his tresses,
Smooth, and parted like a woman's,
Shining bright with oil, and plaited,
Hung with braids of scented grasses, 90

As among the guests assembled,
To the sound of flutes and singing,
To the sound of drums and voices,
Rose the handsome Pau-Puk-Keewis,
And began his mystic dances.

First he danced a solemn measure,
Very slow in step and gesture,
In and out among the pine-trees,
Through the shadows and the sun-
shine, 100

Treading softly like a panther.

Then more swiftly and still swifter,
Whirling, spinning round in circles,
Leaping o'er the guests assembled,
Eddying round and round the wig-
wam,

Till the leaves went whirling with
him,

Till the dust and wind together
Swept in eddies round about him.

Then along the sandy margin
Of the lake, the Big-Sea-Water, 110
On he sped with frenzied gestures,
Stamped upon the sand, and tossed it
Wildly in the air around him ;

Till the wind became a whirlwind,
Till the sand was blown and sifted
Like great snowdrifts o'er the land-
scape,

Heaping all the shores with Sand
Dunes,

Sand Hills of the Nagow Wudjoo !

Thus the merry Pau-Puk-Keewis
Danced his Beggar's Dance to please
them. 120

And, returning, sat down laughing
There among the guests assembled,
Sat and fanned himself serenely
With his fan of turkey-feathers.

Then they said to Chibiabos,

To the friend of Hiawatha,

To the sweetest of all singers,

To the best of all musicians,

"Sing to us, O Chibiabos ! 120

Songs of love and songs of longing,
That the feast may be more joyous,
That the time may pass more gayly,
And our guests be more contented !"

And the gentle Chibiabos

Sang in accents sweet and tender,

Sang in tones of deep emotion,

Songs of love and songs of longing ;

Looking still at Hiawatha,

Looking at fair Laughing Water,

Sang he softly, sang in this wise : 140

"Onaway ! Awake, beloved !

Thou the wild-flower of the forest !

Thou the wild-bird of the prairie !

Thou with eyes so soft and fawn-like !

"If thou only lookest at me,

I am happy, I am happy,

As the lilies of the prairie,

When they feel the dew upon them !

"Sweet thy breath is as the fra-
grance 149

Of the wild-flowers in the morning,

As their fragrance is at evening,
In the Moon when leaves are falling.

"Does not all the blood within me
Leap to meet thee, leap to meet thee,
As the springs to meet the sunshine,
In the Moon when nights are bright-
est?

"Onaway! my heart sings to thee,
Sings with joy when thou art near me,
As the sighing, singing branches
In the pleasant Moon of Strawberries!

"When thou art not pleased, be-
loved, 161
Then my heart is sad and darkened,
As the shining river darkens
When the clouds drop shadows on it!

"When thou smilest, my beloved,
Then my troubled heart is brightened,
As in sunshine gleam the ripples
That the cold wind makes in rivers.

"Smiles the earth, and smile the
waters,

Smile the cloudless skies above us. 170
But I lose the way of smiling
When thou art no longer near me!

"I myself, myself! behold me!
Blood of my beating heart, behold me!
Oh awake, awake, beloved!
Onaway! awake, beloved!"

Thus the gentle Chibiabos
Sang his song of love and longing;
And Iagoo, the great boaster,
He the marvellous story-teller, 180
He the friend of old Nokomis,
Jealous of the sweet musician,
Jealous of the applause they gave
him,

Saw in all the eyes around him,
Saw in all their looks and gestures,
That the wedding guests assembled
Longed to hear his pleasant stories,
His immeasurable falsehoods.

Very boastful was Iagoo;
Never heard he an adventure 190
But himself had met a greater;
Never any deed of daring
But himself had done a bolder;
Never any marvellous story
But himself could tell a stranger.

Would you listen to his boasting,
Would you only give him credence,
No one ever shot an arrow
Half so far and high as he had
Ever caught so many fishes, 200
Ever killed so many reindeer,
Ever trapped so many beaver!

None could run so fast as he could,
None could dive so deep as he could,
None could swim so far as he could;
None had made so many journeys,
None had seen so many wonders,
As this wonderful Iagoo,
As this marvellous story-teller!

Thus his name became a by-word
And a jest among the people; 211
And whene'er a boastful hunter
Praised his own address too highly,
Or a warrior, home returning,
Talked too much of his achievements,
All his hearers cried, "Iagoo!
Here's Iagoo come among us!"

He it was who carved the cradle
Of the little Hiawatha,
Carved its framework out of linden,
Bound it strong with reindeer sinews;
He it was who taught him later 222

How to make his bows and arrows,
How to make the bows of ash-tree.
And the arrows of the oak-tree.

So among the guests assembled
At my Hiawatha's wedding
Sat Iagoo, old and ugly,
Sat the marvellous story-teller.

And they said, "O good Iagoo, 230
Tell us now a tale of wonder,
Tell us of some strange adventure,
That the feast may be more joyous,
That the time may pass more gayly,
And our guests be more contented!"

And Iagoo answered straightway,
"You shall hear a tale of wonder,
You shall hear the strange adventures
Of Osseo, the Magician,
From the Evening Star descended." 240

XII

THE SON OF THE EVENING STAR

CAN it be the sun descending
O'er the level plain of water?
Or the Red Swan floating, flying,
Wounded by the magic arrow,
Staining all the waves with crimson,
With the crimson of its life-blood,
Filling all the air with splendor,
With the splendor of its plumage?

Yes; it is the sun descending,
Sinking down into the water; 18
All the sky is stained with purple,
All the water flushed with crimson!

"Can it be the sun descending
O'er the level plain of water?"

No; it is the Red Swan floating,
Diving down beneath the water;
To the sky its wings are lifted,
With its blood the waves are red-
dened!

Over it the Star of Evening
Melts and trembles through the pur-
ple,

Hangs suspended in the twilight.
No; it is a bed of wampum 20
On the robes of the Great Spirit
As he passes through the twilight,
Walks in silence through the heavens

This with joy beheld Iagoo
And he said in haste: "Behold it!
See the sacred Star of Evening!
You shall hear a tale of wonder,
Hear the story of Osseo,
Son of the Evening Star, Osseo!

"Once, in days no more remem-
bered, 30

Ages nearer the beginning,
When the heavens were closer to us,
And the Gods were more familiar,
In the North-land lived a hunter,
With ten young and comely daugh-
ters,

Tall and lithe as wands of willow;
Only Oweenee, the youngest,
She the wilful and the wayward,
She the silent, dreamy maiden,
Was the fairest of the sisters. 40

"All these women married warriors,
Married brave and haughty husbands;
Only Oweenee, the youngest,
Laughed and flouted all her lovers,
All her young and handsome suitors,
And then married old Osseo,
Old Osseo, poor and ugly,
Broken with age and weak with
coughing,

Always coughing like a squirrel.

" Ah, but beautiful within him 50
Was the spirit of Osseo,
From the Evening Star descended,
Star of Evening, Star of Woman,
Star of tenderness and passion !
All its fire was in his bosom,
All its beauty in his spirit,
All its mystery in his being,
All its splendor in his language!

" And her lovers, the rejected,
Handsome men with belts of wam-
pum, 60
Handsome men with paint and feath-
ers,

Pointed at her in derision,
Followed her with jest and laughter.
But she said : ' I care not for you,
Care not for your belts of wampum,
Care not for your paint and feathers,
Care not for your jests and laughter ;
I am happy with Osseo !'

" Once to some great feast invited,
Through the damp and dusk of even-
ing, 70

Walked together the ten sisters,
Walked together with their husbands ;
Slowly followed old Osseo,
With fair Oweenee beside him ;
All the others chatted gayly,
These two only walked in silence.

" At the western sky Osseo
Gazed intent, as if imploring,
Often stopped and gazed imploring
At the trembling Star of Evening, 80
At the tender Star of Woman ;
And they heard him murmur softly,
' Ah, showain nemeshin, Nosa !
Pity, pity me, my father !'

" " Listen !' said the eldest sister,
' He is praying to his father !
What a pity that the old man
Does not stumble in the pathway,
Does not break his neck by falling !'
And they laughed till all the forest 90
Rang with their unseemly laughter.

" On their pathway through the
woodlands
Lay an oak, by storms uprooted,
Lay the great trunk of an oak-tree,
Buried half in leaves and mosses,
Mouldering, crumbling, huge and hol-
low.

And Osseo, when he saw it,
Gave a shout, a cry of anguish,
Leaped into its yawning cavern,
At one end went in an old man, 100

Wasted, wrinkled, old, and ugly ;
From the other came a young man,
Tall and straight and strong and hand-
some.

" Thus Osseo was transfigured,
Thus restored to youth and beauty ;
But, alas for good Osseo,
And for Oweenee, the faithful !
Strangely, too, was she transfigured.
Changed into a weak old woman,
With a staff she tottered onward, 110
Wasted, wrinkled, old, and ugly !
And the sisters and their husbands
Laughed until the echoing forest
Rang with their unseemly laughter.

" But Osseo turned not from her,
Walked with slower step beside her,
Took her hand, as brown and with-
ered

As an oak-leaf is in Winter,
Called her sweetheart, Nenemoosha,
Soothed her with soft words of kind-
ness, 120

Till they reached the lodge of feast-
ing,

Till they sat down in the wigwam,
Sacred to the Star of Evening,
To the tender Star of Woman.

" Wrapt in visions, lost in dream-
ing,

At the banquet sat Osseo ;
All were merry, all were happy,
All were joyous but Osseo.
Neither food nor drink he tasted,
Neither did he speak nor listen, 130
But as one bewildered sat he,
Looking dreamily and sadly,
First at Oweenee, then upward
At the gleaming sky above them.

" Then a voice was heard, a whis-
per,

Coming from the starry distance,
Coming from the empty vastness,
Low, and musical, and tender ;
And the voice said : ' O Osseo !

O my son, my best beloved ! 140
Broken are the spells that bound you,
All the charms of the magicians,
All the magic powers of evil ;
Come to me ; ascend, Osseo !

" " Taste the food that stands be-
fore you :

It is blessed and enchanted,
It has magic virtues in it,
It will change you to a spirit.
All your bowls and all your kettles

Shall be wood and clay no longer ; 150
But the bowls be changed to wampum,
And the kettles shall be silver ;
They shall shine like shells of scarlet,
Like the fire shall gleam and glimmer.

“ And the women shall no longer
Bear the dreary doom of labor,
But be changed to birds, and glisten
With the beauty of the starlight,
Painted with the dusky splendors
Of the skies and clouds of evening ! ” 160

“ What Osseo heard as whispers,
What as words he comprehended,
Was but music to the others,
Music as of birds afar off,
Of the whippoorwill afar off,
Of the lonely Wawonaissa
Singing in the darksome forest.

“ Then the lodge began to tremble,
Straight began to shake and tremble,
And they felt it rising, rising. 170

Slowly through the air ascending,
From the darkness of the tree-tops
Forth into the dewy starlight,
Till it passed the topmost branches ;
And behold ! the wooden dishes
All were changed to shells of scarlet !
And behold ! the earthen kettles
All were changed to bowls of silver !
And the roof-poles of the wigwam
Were as glittering rods of silver, 180
And the roof of bark upon them
As the shining shards of beetles.

“ Then Osseo gazed around him,
And he saw the nine fair sisters,
All the sisters and their husbands,
Changed to birds of various plumage.
Some were jays and some were mag-
pies,

Others thrushes, others blackbirds ;
And they hopped, and sang, and twit-
tered, 189
Perked and fluttered all their feathers,
Strutted in their shining plumage,
And their tails like fans unfolded.

“ Only Oweenee, the youngest,
Was not changed, but sat in silence,
Wasted, wrinkled, old, and ugly,
Looking sadly at the others ;
Till Osseo, gazing upward,
Gave another cry of anguish,
Such a cry as he had uttered
By the oak-tree in the forest. 200

“ Then returned her youth and
beauty,
And her soiled and tattered garments

Were transformed to robes of ermine,
And her staff became a feather,
Yes, a shining silver feather !

“ And again the wigwam trembled,
Swayed and rushed through airy cur-
rents,

Through transparent cloud and vapor,
And amid celestial splendors
On the Evening Star alighted, 210
As a snow-flake falls on snow-flake,
As a leaf drops on a river,
As the thistle-down on water.

“ Forth with cheerful words of wel-
come

Came the father of Osseo,
He with radiant locks of silver,
He with eyes serene and tender.
And he said : ‘ My son, Osseo,
Hang the cage of birds you bring
there,

Hang the cage with rods of silver, 220
And the birds with glistening feathers,
At the doorway of my wigwam.’

“ At the door he hung the bird-cage,
And they entered in and gladly
Listened to Osseo’s father,
Ruler of the Star of Evening,
As he said : ‘ O my Osseo !
I have had compassion on you,
Given you back your youth and
beauty,

Into birds of various plumage 230
Changed your sisters and their hus-
bands ;

Changed them thus because they
mocked you

In the figure of the old man,
In that aspect sad and wrinkled,
Could not see your heart of passion,
Could not see your youth immortal ;
Only Oweenee, the faithful,
Saw your naked heart and loved you.

“ In the lodge that glimmers yon-
der,

In the little star that twinkles 240
Through the vapors, on the left hand,
Lives the envious Evil Spirit,
The Wabeno, the magician,
Who transformed you to an old man.
Take heed lest his beams fall on you,
For the rays he darts around him
Are the power of his enchantment,
Are the arrows that he uses.’

“ Many years, in peace and quiet,
On the peaceful Star of Evening 250
Dwelt Osseo with his father ;

Many years, in song and flutter,
At the doorway of the wigwam,
Hung the cage with rods of silver,
And fair Oweenee, the faithful,
Bore a son unto Osseo,
With the beauty of his mother,
With the courage of his father.

“And the boy grew up and prospered,
And Osseo, to delight him, 260
Made him little bows and arrows,
Opened the great cage of silver,
And let loose his aunts and uncles,
All those birds with glossy feathers,
For his little son to shoot at.

“Round and round they wheeled
and darted,
Filled the Evening Star with music,
With their songs of joy and freedom;
Filled the Evening Star with splendor,
With the fluttering of their plumage;
Till the boy, the little hunter, 271
Bent his bow and shot an arrow,
Shot a swift and fatal arrow,
And a bird, with shining feathers,
At his feet fell wounded sorely.

“But, O wondrous transformation!
’T was no bird he saw before him,
’T was a beautiful young woman,
With the arrow in her bosom!

“When her blood fell on the
planet, 280
On the sacred Star of Evening,
Broken was the spell of magic,
Powerless was the strange enchantment,
And the youth, the fearless bowman,
Suddenly felt himself descending,
Held by unseen hands, but sinking
Downward through the empty spaces,
Downward through the clouds and
vapors,

Till he rested on an island,
On an island, green and grassy, 290
Yonder in the Big-Sea-Water.

“After him he saw descending
All the birds with shining feathers,
Fluttering, falling, wafted downward,
Like the painted leaves of Autumn;
And the lodge with poles of silver,
With its roof like wings of beetles,
Like the shining shards of beetles,
By the winds of heaven uplifted,
Slowly sank upon the island, 300

Bringing back the good Osseo,
Bringing Oweenee, the faithful.

“Then the birds, again transfigured,
Reassumed the shape of mortals,
Took their shape, but not their stature;

They remained as Little People,
Like the pygmies, the Puk-Wudjies,
And on pleasant nights of Summer,
When the Evening Star was shining,
Hand in hand they danced together 310
On the island’s craggy headlands,
On the sand-beach low and level.

“Still their glittering lodge is seen
there,

On the tranquil Summer evenings,
And upon the shore the fisher
Sometimes hears their happy voices,
Sees them dancing in the starlight!”

When the story was completed,
When the wondrous tale was ended,
Looking round upon his listeners, 320
Solemnly Iagoo added:

“There are great men, I have known
such,

Whom their people understand not,
Whom they even make a jest of,
Scoff and jeer at in derision.
From the story of Osseo
Let us learn the fate of jesters!”

All the wedding guests delighted
Listened to the marvellous story,
Listened laughing and applauding, 330
And they whispered to each other:
“Does he mean himself, I wonder?
And are we the aunts and uncles?”

Then again sang Chibiabos,
Sang a song of love and longing,
In those accents sweet and tender,
In those tones of pensive sadness,
Sang a maiden’s lamentation
For her lover, her Algonquin.

“When I think of my beloved, 340
Ah me! think of my beloved,
When my heart is thinking of him,
O my sweetheart, my Algonquin!

“Ah me! when I parted from him,
Round my neck he hung the wam-
pum,

As a pledge, the snow-white wam-
pum,

O my sweetheart, my Algonquin!

“I will go with you, he whispered,
Ah me! to your native country;
Let me go with you, he whispered, 350
O my sweetheart, my Algonquin!

"Far away, away, I answered,
 Very far away, I answered,
 Ah me! is my native country,
 O my sweetheart, my Algonquin!
 "When I looked back to behold
 him,
 Where we parted, to behold him,
 After me he still was gazing,
 O my sweetheart, my Algonquin!
 "By the tree he still was standing,
 By the fallen tree was standing, 361
 That had dropped into the water,
 O my sweetheart, my Algonquin!
 "When I think of my beloved,
 Ah me! think of my beloved,
 When my heart is thinking of him,
 O my sweetheart, my Algonquin!"
 Such was Hiawatha's Wedding.
 Such the dance of Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 Such the story of Iagoo, 370
 Such the songs of Chibiabos;
 Thus the wedding banquet ended,
 And the wedding guests departed,
 Leaving Hiawatha happy
 With the night and Minnehaha.

XIII

BLESSING THE CORNFIELDS

SING, O Song of Hiawatha,
 Of the happy days that followed,
 In the land of the Ojibways,
 In the pleasant land and peaceful!
 Sing the mysteries of Mondamin,
 Sing the Blessing of the Cornfields!
 Buried was the bloody hatchet,
 Buried was the dreadful war-club,
 Buried were all warlike weapons,
 And the war-cry was forgotten. 10
 There was peace among the nations:
 Unmolested roved the hunters,
 Built the birch canoe for sailing,
 Caught the fish in lake and river,
 Shot the deer and trapped the beaver;
 Unmolested worked the women,
 Made their sugar from the maple,
 Gathered wild rice in the meadows,
 Dressed the skins of deer and beaver.
 All around the happy village 20
 Stood the maize-fields, green and
 shining,
 Waved the green plumes of Mon-
 damin,
 Waved his soft and sunny tresses,

Filling all the land with plenty.
 'Twas the women who in Spring-
 time
 Planted the broad fields and fruitful,
 Buried in the earth Mondamin;
 'Twas the women who in Autumn
 Stripped the yellow husks of har-
 vest,
 Stripped the garments from Mon-
 damin, 30
 Even as Hiawatha taught them.
 Once, when all the maize was
 planted,
 Hiawatha, wise and thoughtful,
 Spake and said to Minnehaha,
 To his wife, the Laughing Water:
 "You shall bless to-night the corn-
 fields,
 Draw a magic circle round them,
 To protect them from destruction,
 Blast of mildew, blight of insect,
 Wagemin, the thief of cornfields, 40
 Paimosaid, who steals the maize-ear!
 "In the night, when all is silence,
 In the night, when all is darkness,
 When the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin,
 Shuts the doors of all the wigwams,
 So that not an ear can hear you,
 So that not an eye can see you,
 Rise up from your bed in silence,
 Lay aside your garments wholly,
 Walk around the fields you planted, 50
 Round the borders of the cornfields,
 Covered by your tresses only,
 Robed with darkness as a garment.
 "Thus the fields shall be more fruit-
 ful,
 And the passing of your footsteps
 Draw a magic circle round them,
 So that neither blight nor mildew,
 Neither burrowing worm nor insect,
 Shall pass o'er the magic circle;
 Not the dragon-fly, Kwo-ne-she, 60
 Nor the spider, Subbekashe,
 Nor the grasshopper, Pah-puk-keena,
 Nor the mighty caterpillar,
 Way-muk-kwana, with the bear-skin,
 King of all the caterpillars!"
 On the tree-tops near the cornfields
 Sat the hungry crows and ravens,
 Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens,
 With his band of black marauders.
 And they laughed at Hiawatha, 70
 Till the tree-tops shook with laughter,
 With their melancholy laughter,
 At the words of Hiawatha.

"Hear him!" said they; "hear the
Wise Man,
Hear the plots of Hiawatha!"

When the noiseless night descended
Broad and dark o'er field and forest,
When the mournful Wawonaissa
Sorrowing sang among the hemlocks,
And the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin, so
Shut the doors of all the wigwams,
From her bed rose Laughing Water,
Laid aside her garments wholly,
And with darkness clothed and
guarded,

Unashamed and unaffrighted,
Walked securely round the cornfields,
Drew the sacred, magic circle
Of her footprints round the cornfields.

No one but the Midnight only
Saw her beauty in the darkness, 90
No one but the Wawonaissa
Heard the panting of her bosom;
Guskewau, the darkness, wrapped her
Closely in his sacred mantle,
So that none might see her beauty,
So that none might boast, "I saw
her!"

On the morrow, as the day dawned,
Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens,
Gathered all his black marauders,
Crows and blackbirds, jays and ra-
vens, 100

Clamorous on the dusky tree-tops,
And descended, fast and fearless,
On the fields of Hiawatha,
On the grave of the Mondamin.

"We will drag Mondamin," said
they,

"From the grave where he is buried,
Spite of all the magic circles
Laughing Water draws around it,
Spite of all the sacred footprints
Minnehaha stamps upon it!" 110

But the wary Hiawatha,
Ever thoughtful, careful, watchful,
Had o'erheard the scornful laughter
When they mocked him from the
tree-tops.

"Kaw!" he said, "my friends the
Ravens

Kahgahgee, my King of Ravens!
I will teach you all a lesson
That shall not be soon forgotten!"

He had risen before the daybreak,
He had spread o'er all the cornfields 120
Snare to catch the black marauders,
And was lying now in ambush

In the neighboring grove of pine-trees,
Waiting for the crows and blackbirds,
Waiting for the jays and ravens.

Soon they came with caw and clamor,
Rush of wings and cry of voices,
To their work of devastation,
Settling down upon the cornfields,
Delving deep with beak and talon 130
For the body of Mondamin.
And with all their craft and cunning,
All their skill in wiles of warfare,
They perceived no danger near them,
Till their claws became entangled,
Till they found themselves imprisoned
In the snares of Hiawatha.

From his place of ambush came he,
Striding terrible among them,
And so awful was his aspect 140
That the bravest quailed with terror.
Without mercy he destroyed them
Right and left, by tens and twenties,
And their wretched, lifeless bodies
Hung aloft on poles for scarecrows
Round the consecrated cornfields,
As a signal of his vengeance,
As a warning to marauders.

Only Kahgahgee, the leader,
Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens, 150
He alone was spared among them,
As a hostage for his people.
With his prisoner-string he bound him,
Led him captive to his wigwam,
Tied him fast with cords of elm-bark
To the ridge-pole of his wigwam.

"Kahgahgee, my raven!" said he,
"You the leader of the robbers,
You the plotter of this mischief,
The contriver of this outrage, 160
I will keep you, I will hold you,
As a hostage for your people,
As a pledge of good behavior!"

And he left him, grim and sulky,
Sitting in the morning sunshine
On the summit of the wigwam,
Croaking fiercely his displeasure,
Flapping his great sable pinions,
Vainly struggling for his freedom,
Vainly calling on his people! 170

Summer passed, and Shawondasee
Breathed his sighs o'er all the land-
scape,

From the South-land sent his ardors,
Wafted kisses warm and tender;
And the maize-field grew and ripened,
Till it stood in all the splendor
Of its garments green and yellow,

Of its tassels and its plumage,
And the maize-ears full and shining
Gleamed from bursting sheaths of
verdure. 180

Then Nokomis, the old woman,
Spake, and said to Minnehaha:
" 'T is the Moon when leaves are fall-
ing ;

All the wild rice has been gathered,
And the maize is ripe and ready ;
Let us gather in the harvest,
Let us wrestle with Mondamin,
Strip him of his plumes and tassels,
Of his garments green and yellow ! "

And the merry Laughing Water 190
Went rejoicing from the wigwam,
With Nokomis, old and wrinkled,
And they called the women round
them,

Called the young men and the maidens,
To the harvest of the cornfields,
To the husking of the maize-ear.

On the border of the forest,
Underneath the fragrant pine-trees,
Sat the old men and the warriors
Smoking in the pleasant shadow. 200
In uninterrupted silence

Looked they at the gamesome labor
Of the young men and the women ;
Listened to their noisy talking,
To their laughter and their singing,
Heard them chattering like the mag-
pies,

Heard them laughing like the blue-
jays,

Heard them singing like the robins.

And whene'er some lucky maiden
Found a red ear in the husking, 210

Found a maize-ear red as blood is,
" Nushka ! " cried they all together,
" Nushka ! you shall have a sweet-
heart,

You shall have a handsome husband ! "
" Ugh ! " the old men all responded
From their seats beneath the pine-trees.

And whene'er a youth or maiden
Found a crooked ear in husking,
Found a maize-ear in the husking
Blighted, mildewed, or misshapen, 220
Then they laughed and sang together,
Crept and limped about the cornfields,
Mimicked in their gait and gestures
Some old man, bent almost double,
Singing singly or together:

" Wagemin, the thief of cornfields !
Palmosaid, who steals the maize-ear ! "

Till the cornfields rang with laugh-
ter,

Till from Hiawatha's wigwams
Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens, 230
Screamed and quivered in his anger,
And from all the neighboring tree-tops
Cawed and croaked the black maraud-
ers.

" Ugh ! " the old men all responded,
From their seats beneath the pine-
trees !

XIV

PICTURE-WRITING

In those days said Hiawatha,
" Lo ! how all things fade and perish !
From the memory of the old men
Pass away the great traditions,
The achievements of the warriors,
The adventures of the hunters,
All the wisdom of the Medas,
All the craft of the Wabenos,
All the marvellous dreams and visions
Of the Jossakeeds, the Prophets ! 10

" Great men die and are forgotten,
Wise men speak ; their words of wis-
dom

Perish in the ears that hear them,
Do not reach the generations
That, as yet unborn, are waiting
In the great, mysterious darkness
Of the speechless days that shall be !

" On the grave-posts of our fathers
Are no signs, no figures painted ;
Who are in those graves we know
not, 20

Only know they are our fathers.
Of what kith they are and kindred,
From what old, ancestral Totem,
Be it Eagle, Bear, or Beaver,
They descended, this we know not,
Only know they are our fathers.

" Face to face we speak together,
But we cannot speak when absent,
Cannot send our voices from us
To the friends that dwell afar off ; 30
Cannot send a secret message,
But the bearer learns our secret,
May pervert it, may betray it,
May reveal it unto others.

Thus said Hiawatha, walking
In the solitary forest,
Pondering, musing in the forest,
On the welfare of his people.

From his pouch he took his colors,
Took his paints of different colors, 40
On the smooth bark of a birch-tree
Painted many shapes and figures,
Wonderful and mystic figures,
And each figure had a meaning,
Each some word or thought suggested.

Gitche Manito the Mighty,
He, the Master of Life, was painted
As an egg, with points projecting
To the four winds of the heavens.
Everywhere is the Great Spirit, 50
Was the meaning of this symbol.

Mitche Manito the Mighty,
He the dreadful Spirit of Evil,
As a serpent was depicted,
As Kenabeek, the great serpent.
Very crafty, very cunning,
Is the creeping Spirit of Evil,
Was the meaning of this symbol.

Life and Death he drew as circles,
Life was white, but Death was dark-
ened ; 60

Sun and moon and stars he painted,
Man and beast, and fish and reptile,
Forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers.

For the earth he drew a straight line,
For the sky a bow above it ;
White the space between for daytime,
Filled with little stars for night-time ;
On the left a point for sunrise,
On the right a point for sunset,
On the top a point for noontide, 70
And for rain and cloudy weather
Waving lines descending from it.

Footprints pointing towards a wig-
wam

Were a sign of invitation,
Were a sign of guests assembling ;
Bloody hands with palms uplifted
Were a symbol of destruction,
Were a hostile sign and symbol.

All these things did Hiawatha
Show unto his wondering people, 80
And interpreted their meaning,
And he said: "Behold, your grave-
posts

Have no mark, no sign, nor symbol
Go and paint them all with figures ;
Each one with its household symbol,
With its own ancestral Totem ;
So that those who follow after
May distinguish them and know
them."

And they painted on the grave posts
On the graves yet unforgotten. 90

Each his own ancestral Totem,
Each the symbol of his household ;
Figures of the Bear and Reindeer,
Of the Turtle, Crane, and Beaver,
Each inverted as a token
That the owner was departed,
That the chief who bore the symbol
Lay beneath in dust and ashes.

And the Jossakeeds, the Prophets,
The Wabenos, the Magicians, 100
And the Medicine-men, the Medas,
Painted upon bark and deer-skin
Figures for the songs they chanted,
For each song a separate symbol,
Figures mystical and awful,
Figures strange and brightly colored ;
And each figure had its meaning,
Each some magic song suggested.

The Great Spirit, the Creator,
Flashing light through all the heaven ;
The Great Serpent, the Kenabeek, 110
With his bloody crest erected.

Creeping, looking into heaven ;
In the sky the sun, that listens,
And the moon eclipsed and dying ;
Owl and eagle, crane and hen-hawk,
And the cormorant, bird of magic ;
Headless men, that walk the heavens,
Bodies lying pierced with arrows,
Bloody hands of death uplifted, 120
Flags on graves, and great war-cap-
tains

Grasping both the earth and heaven !
Such as these the shapes they
painted

On the birch-bark and the deer-skin ;
Songs of war and songs of hunting,
Songs of medicine and of magic,
All were written in these figures,
For each figure had its meaning,
Each its separate song recorded.

Nor forgotten was the Love-Song, 130
The most subtle of all medicines,
The most potent spell of magic,
Dangerous more than war or hunting !
Thus the Love-Song was recorded,
Symbol and interpretation.

First a human figure standing,
Painted in the brightest scarlet ;
'T is the lover, the musician,
And the meaning is, "My painting
Makes me powerful over others. 140

Then the figure seated, singing,
Playing on a drum of magic,
And the interpretation, "Listen !
'T is my voice you hear, my singing !"

Then the same red figure seated
In the shelter of a wigwam,
And the meaning of the symbol,
"I will come and sit beside you
In the mystery of my passion!"

Then two figures, man and woman,
Standing hand in hand together ¹⁵¹
With their hands so clasped together
That they seemed in one united,
And the words thus represented
Are, "I see your heart within you,
And your cheeks are red with
blushes!"

Next the maiden on an island,
In the centre of an island;
And the song this shape suggested

In the land of Sleep and Silence,
Still the voice of love would reach
you!" ¹⁷⁰

And the last of all the figures
Was a heart within a circle,
Drawn within a magic circle;
And the image had this meaning:
"Naked lies your heart before me,
To your naked heart I whisper!"

Thus it was that Hiawatha,
In his wisdom, taught the people
All the mysteries of painting,
All the art of Picture-Writing. ¹⁸⁰
On the smooth bark of the birch-tree,
On the white skin of the reindeer,
On the grave-posts of the village.

"Such as these the shapes they painted
On the birch-bark and the deer-skin"

Was, "Though you were at a distance,
Were upon some far-off island, ¹⁶¹
Such the spell I cast upon you,
Such the magic power of passion,
I could straightway draw you to me!"

Then the figure of the maiden
Sleeping, and the lover near her,
Whispering to her in her slumbers,
Saying, "Though you were far from
me

XV

HIAWATHA'S LAMENTATION

In those days the Evil Spirits,
All the Manitos of mischief,
Fearing Hiawatha's wisdom,
And his love for Chibiabos,
Jealous of their faithful friendship,
And their noble words and actions,

Made at length a league against them,
To molest them and destroy them.

Hiawatha, wise and wary,
Often said to Chibiabos, 10

"O my brother! do not leave me,
Lest the Evil Spirits harm you!"
Chibiabos, young and heedless,
Laughing shook his coal-black tresses,
Answered ever sweet and childlike,
"Do not fear for me, O brother!
Harm and evil come not near me!"

Once when Peboan, the Winter,
Roofed with ice the Big-Sea-Water,
When the snow-flakes, whirling down-
ward, 20

Hissed among the withered oak-leaves,
Changed the pine-trees into wigwams,
Covered all the earth with silence, —
Armed with arrows, shod with snow-
shoes,

Heeding not his brother's warning,
Fearing not the Evil Spirits,
Forth to hunt the deer with antlers
All alone went Chibiabos.

Right across the Big-Sea-Water 29
Sprang with speed the deer before him.
With the wind and snow he followed,
O'er the treacherous ice he followed,
Wild with all the fierce commotion
And the rapture of the hunting.

But beneath, the Evil Spirits
Lay in ambush, waiting for him,
Broke the treacherous ice beneath him,
Dragged him downward to the bottom,
Buried in the sand his body.

Unktahee, the god of water, 40
He the god of the Dacotahs,
Drowned him in the deep abysses
Of the lake of Gitche Gumees.

From the headlands Hiawatha
Sent forth such a wail of anguish,
Such a fearful lamentation,
That the bison paused to listen,
And the wolves howled from the
prairies,

And the thunder in the distance
Starting answered "Bain-wawa!" 50

Then his face with black he painted,
With his robe his hand he covered,
In his wigwam sat lamenting,
Seven long weeks he sat lamenting,
Uttering still this moan of sorrow:—

"He is dead, the sweet musician!
He the sweetest of all singers!
He has gone from us forever,
He has moved a litter nearer

To the Master of all music, 60
To the Master of all singing!
O my brother, Chibiabos!"

And the melancholy fir-trees
Waved their dark green fans above
him,

Waved their purple cones above him,
Sighing with him to console him,
Mingling with his lamentation
Their complaining, their lamenting.

Came the Spring, and all the forest
Looked in vain for Chibiabos; 70
Sighed the rivulet, Sebowisha,
Sighed the rushes in the meadow.

From the tree-tops sang the blue-
bird,

Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,
"Chibiabos! Chibiabos!"

He is dead, the sweet musician!"

From the wigwam sang the robin,
Sang the robin, the Opechee,
"Chibiabos! Chibiabos!"

He is dead, the sweetest singer!" 80

And at night through all the forest
Went the whippoorwill complaining,
Wailing went the Wawonaissa,
"Chibiabos! Chibiabos!"

He is dead, the sweet musician!
He the sweetest of all singers!"

Then the Medicine-men, the Medas,
The magicians, the Wabenos,
And the Jossakeeds, the Prophets,
Came to visit Hiawatha; 90

Built a Sacred Lodge beside him,
To appease him, to console him,
Walked in silent, grave procession,
Bearing each a pouch of healing,
Skin of beaver, lynx, or otter,
Filled with magic roots and simples,
Filled with very potent medicines.

When he heard their steps approach-
ing,

Hiawatha ceased lamenting,
Called no more on Chibiabos; 100
Naught he questioned, naught he an-
swered,

But his mournful head uncovered,
From his face the mourning colors
Washed he slowly and in silence,
Slowly and in silence followed
Onward to the Sacred Wigwam,

There a magic drink they gave him,
Made of Nohma-wusk, the spearmint,
And Wabeno-wusk, the yarrow,
Roots of power, and herbs of heal-
ing; 110

Beat their drums, and shook their
rattles ;

Chanted singly and in chorus,
Mystic songs like these, they chanted.

"I myself, myself! behold me!
'Tis the great Gray Eagle talking;
Come, ye white crows, come and hear
him!

The loud-speaking thunder helps me ;
All the unseen spirits help me;
I can hear their voices calling,
All around the sky I hear them. 120

I can blow you strong, my brother,
I can heal you, Hiawatha!"

"Hi-au-ha!" replied the chorus,
"Way-ha-way!" the mystic chorus.

"Friends of mine are all the ser-
pents!

Hear me shake my skin of hen-hawk!
Mahng, the white loon, I can kill
him ;

I can shoot your heart and kill it!
I can blow you strong, my brother,
I can heal you, Hiawatha!" 130

"Hi-au-ha!" replied the chorus.
"Way-ha-way!" the mystic chorus.

"I myself, myself! the prophet!
When I speak the wigwam trembles,
Shakes the Sacred Lodge with terror,
Hands unseen begin to shake it!
When I walk, the sky I tread on
Bends and makes a noise beneath me!
I can blow you strong, my brother!
Rise and speak, O Hiawatha!" 140

"Hi-au-ha!" replied the chorus,
"Way-ha-way!" the mystic chorus.

Then they shook their medicine-
pouches

O'er the head of Hiawatha,
Danced their medicine-dance around
him ;

And upstarting wild and haggard,
Like a man from dreams awakened,
He was healed of all his madness.
As the clouds are swept from heaven
Straightway from his brain departed
All his moody melancholy ; 151

As the ice is swept from rivers,
Straightway from his heart departed
All his sorrow and affliction.

Then they summoned Chibiabos
From his grave beneath the waters,
From the sands of Gitche Gumee
Summoned Hiawatha's brother.
And so mighty was the magic
Of that cry and invocation, 160

That he heard it as he lay there
Underneath the Big-Sea-Water ;
From the sand he rose and listened,
Heard the music and the singing,
Came, obedient to the summons,
To the doorway of the wigwam,
But to enter they forbade him.

Through a chink a coal they gave
him,
Through the door a burning fire-
brand ;

Ruler in the Land of Spirits, 170
Ruler o'er the dead, they made him,
Telling him a fire to kindle
For all those that died thereafter,
Camp-fires for their night encamp-
ments

On their solitary journey
To the kingdom of Ponemah,
To the land of the Hereafter.

From the village of his childhood,
From the homes of those who knew
him,

Passing silent through the forest, 180
Like a smoke-wreath wafted side-
ways,

Slowly vanished Chibiabos!
Where he passed, the branches moved
not,

Where he trod, the grasses bent not,
And the fallen leaves of last year
Made no sound beneath his footsteps.

Four whole days he journeyed on-
ward

Down the pathway of the dead men;
On the dead-man's strawberry feasted,
Crossed the melancholy river, 190
On the swinging log he crossed it,
Came unto the Lake of Silver,
In the Stone Canoe was carried
To the Islands of the Blessed,
To the land of ghosts and shadows.

On that journey, moving slowly,
Many weary spirits saw he,
Panting under heavy burdens,
Laden with war-clubs, bows and
arrows,

Robes of fur, and pots and kettles, 200
And with food that friends had given
For that solitary journey.

"Ay! why do the living," said they,
"Lay such heavy burdens on us!
Better were it to go naked,
Better were it to go fasting,
Than to bear such heavy burdens
On our long and weary journey!"

Shook and jostled them together,
Threw them on the ground before him,
Still exclaiming and explaining: 91

"White are both the great Kenabeeks,
White the Ininewug, the wedge-men,
Red are all the other pieces;
Five tens and an eight are counted."

Thus he taught the game of hazard,
Thus displayed it and explained it,
Running through its various chances,
Various changes, various meanings:
Twenty curious eyes stared at him, 100
Full of eagerness stared at him.

"Many games," said old Iagoo,
"Many games of skill and hazard
Have I seen in different nations,
Have I played in different countries.
He who plays with old Iagoo
Must have very nimble fingers;
Though you think yourself so skilful,
I can beat you, Pau-Puk-Keewis,
I can even give you lessons 110

In your game of Bowl and Counters!"
So they sat and played together,
All the old men and the young men,
Played for dresses, weapons, wampum,
Played till midnight, played till morning,

Played until the Yenadizze,
Till the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Of their treasures had despoiled them,
Of the best of all their dresses,
Shirts of deer-skin, robes of ermine, 120
Belts of wampum, crests of feathers,
Warlike weapons, pipes and pouches.
Twenty eyes glared wildly at him,
Like the eyes of wolves glared at him.

Said the lucky Pau-Puk-Keewis:
"In my wigwam I am lonely,
In my wanderings and adventures
I have need of a companion,
Fain would have a Meshinauwa,
An attendant and pipe-bearer. 130
I will venture all these winnings,
All these garments heaped about me,
All this wampum, all these feathers,
On a single throw will venture
All against the young man yonder!"
'T was a youth of sixteen summers,
'T was a nephew of Iagoo;
Face-in-a-Mist, the people called him.

As the fire burns in a pipe-head
Dusky red beneath the ashes, 140
So beneath his shaggy eyebrows
Glowed the eyes of old Iagoo.

"Ugh!" he answered very fiercely;
"Ugh!" they answered all and each
one.

Seized the wooden bowl the old
man,

Closely in his bony fingers
Clutched the fatal bowl, Onagon,
Shook it fiercely and with fury,
Made the pieces ring together,
As he threw them down before him. 150

Red were both the great Kenabeeks,
Red the Ininewug, the wedge-men,
Red the Sheshebwug, the ducklings,
Black the four brass Ozawabeeks,
White alone the fish, the Keego;
Only five the pieces counted!

Then the smiling Pau-Puk-Keewis
Shook the bowl and threw the pieces;
Lightly in the air he tossed them,
And they fell about him scattered; 160
Dark and bright the Ozawabeeks,
Red and white the other pieces,
And upright among the others
One Ininewug was standing,
Even as crafty Pau-Puk-Keewis
Stood alone among the players,
Saying, "Five tens! mine the game
is!"

Twenty eyes glared at him fiercely,
Like the eyes of wolves glared at
him,

As he turned and left the wigwam, 170
Followed by his Meshinauwa,
By the nephew of Iagoo,
By the tall and graceful stripling,
Bearing in his arms the winnings,
Shirts of deer-skin, robes of ermine,
Belts of wampum, pipes and weapons.

"Carry them," said Pau-Puk-Keewis,

Pointing with his fan of feathers,
"To my wigwam far to eastward,
On the dunes of Nagow Wudjoo!"

Hot and red with smoke and gambling 181

Were the eyes of Pau-Puk-Keewis
As he came forth to the freshness
Of the pleasant Summer morning.
All the birds were singing gayly,
All the streamlets flowing swiftly,
And the heart of Pau-Puk-Keewis
Sang with pleasure as the birds sing,
Beat with triumph like the streamlets,
As he wandered through the village,
In the early gray of morning, 191
With his fan of turkey-feathers,

O'er whose summit flowed the stream-
let.

From the bottom rose the beaver,
Looked with two great eyes of won-
der,

Eyes that seemed to ask a question,
At the stranger, Pau-Puk-Keewis.

On the dam stood Pau-Puk-Keewis,
O'er his ankles flowed the streamlet, 60
Flowed the bright and silvery water,
And he spake unto the beaver,
With a smile he spake in this wise:

"O my friend Ahmeek, the beaver,
Cool and pleasant is the water;
Let me dive into the water,
Let me rest there in your lodges;
Change me, too, into a beaver!"

Cautiously replied the beaver,
With reserve he thus made answer: 70
"Let me first consult the others,
Let me ask the other beavers."

Down he sank into the water,
Heavily sank he, as a stone sinks,
Down among the leaves and branches,
Brown and matted at the bottom.

On the dam stood Pau-Puk-Keewis,
O'er his ankles flowed the streamlet,
Spouted through the chinks below
him,

Dashed upon the stones beneath him,
Spread serene and calm before him, 81
And the sunshine and the shadows
Fell in flecks and gleams upon him,
Fell in little shining patches,
Through the waving, rustling branches.

From the bottom rose the beavers,
Silently above the surface
Rose one head and then another,
Till the pond seemed full of beavers,
Full of black and shining faces. 90

To the beavers Pau-Puk-Keewis
Spake entreating, said in this wise:
"Very pleasant is your dwelling,
O my friends! and safe from danger;
Can you not, with all your cunning,
All your wisdom and contrivance,
Change me, too, into a beaver?"

"Yes!" replied Ahmeek, the beaver,
He the King of all the beavers,
"Let yourself slide down among us, 100
Down into the tranquil water."

Down into the pond among them
Silently sank Pau-Puk-Keewis;
Black became his shirt of deer-skin,
Black his moccasins and leggings,
In a broad black tail behind him

Spread his fox-tails and his fringes;
He was changed into a beaver.

"Make me large," said Pau-Puk-
Keewis,

"Make me large and make me larger,
Larger than the other beavers." 111

"Yes," the beaver chief responded,
"When our lodge below you enter,
In our wigwam we will make you
Ten times larger than the others."

Thus into the clear brown water
Silently sank Pau-Puk-Keewis:
Found the bottom covered over
With the trunks of trees and branches
Hoards of food against the winter, 121
Piles and heaps against the famine;
Found the lodge with arching door
way,

Leading into spacious chambers.

Here they made him large and
larger,

Made him largest of the beavers,
Ten times larger than the others.
"You shall be our ruler," said they;
"Chief and King of all the beavers."

But not long had Pau-Puk-Keewis
Sat in state among the beavers, 130
When there came a voice of warning
From the watchman at his station
In the water-flags and lilies,
Saying, "Here is Hiawatha!
Hiawatha with his hunters!"

Then they heard a cry above them,
Heard a shouting and a tramping,
Heard a crashing and a rushing,
And the water round and o'er them
Sank and sucked away in eddies, 140
And they knew their dam was broken.

On the lodge's roof the hunters
Leaped, and broke it all asunder;
Streamed the sunshine through the
crevice,

Sprang the beavers through the door
way,

Hid themselves in deeper water,
In the channel of the streamlet;
But the mighty Pau-Puk-Keewis
Could not pass beneath the doorway;
He was puffed with pride and feed-
ing, 150

He was swollen like a bladder.

Through the roof looked Hiawatha,
Cried aloud, "O Pau-Puk-Keewis!
Vain are all your craft and cunning,
Vain your manifold disguises!
Well I know you, Pau-Puk-Keewis!"

With their clubs they beat and bruised
him,

Beat to death poor Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Pounded him as maize is pounded,
Till his skull was crushed to pieces. 160

Six tall hunters, lithe and limber,
Bore him home on poles and branches,
Bore the body of the beaver;
But the ghost, the Jeebi in him,
Thought and felt as Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Still lived on as Pau-Puk-Keewis.

And it fluttered, strove, and strug-
gled,
Waving hither, waving thither,
As the curtains of a wigwam
Struggle with their thongs of deer-
skin, 170

When the wintry wind is blowing;
Till it drew itself together,
Till it rose up from the body,
Till it took the form and features
Of the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis
Vanishing into the forest.

But the wary Hiawatha
Saw the figure ere it vanished,
Saw the form of Pau-Puk-Keewis
Glide into the soft blue shadow 180
Of the pine-trees of the forest;
Toward the squares of white beyond
it,

Toward an opening in the forest,
Like a wind it rushed and panted,
Bending all the boughs before it,
And behind it, as the rain comes
Came the steps of Hiawatha.

To a lake with many islands
Came the breathless Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Where among the water-lilies 190
Pishnekuh, the brant, were sailing;
Through the tufts of rushes floating,
Steering through the reedy islands.
Now their broad black beaks they
lifted,

Now they plunged beneath the water,
Now they darkened in the shadow,
Now they brightened in the sunshine.

"Pishnekuh!" cried Pau-Puk-Keewis,

"Pishnekuh! my brothers!" said he,
"Change me to a brant with plumage,
With a shining neck and feathers, 201
Make me large, and make me larger,
Ten times larger than the others."

Straightway to a brant they changed
him,
With two huge and dusky pinions,

With a bosom smooth and rounded,
With a bill like two great paddles,
Made him larger than the others,
Ten times larger than the largest,
Just as, shouting from the forest, 210
On the shore stood Hiawatha.

Up they rose with cry and clamor,
With a whirl and beat of pinions,
Rose up from the reedy islands,
From the water-flags and lilies.
And they said to Pau-Puk-Keewis:
"In your flying, look not downward,
Take good heed and look not down-
ward,

Lest some strange mischance should
happen,
Lest some great mishap befall you!"

Fast and far they fled to northward,
Fast and far through mist and sun-
shine, 222

Fed among the moors and fen-lands,
Slept among the reeds and rushes.

On the morrow as they journeyed,
Buoyed and lifted by the South-wind,
Wafted onward by the South-wind,
Blowing fresh and strong behind them,
Rose a sound of human voices,
Rose a clamor from beneath them, 230
From the lodges of a village,
From the people miles beneath them.

For the people of the village
Saw the flock of brant with wonder,
Saw the wings of Pau-Puk-Keewis
Flapping far up in the ether,
Broader than two doorway curtains.

Pau-Puk-Keewis heard the shout-
ing,

Knew the voice of Hiawatha,
Knew the outcry of Iagoo, 240
And, forgetful of the warning,
Drew his peck in, and looked down-
ward,

And the wind that blew behind him
Caught his mighty fan of feathers,
Sent him wheeling, whirling down-
ward!

All in vain did Pau-Puk-Keewis
Struggle to regain his balance!
Whirling round and round and down-
ward,

He beheld in turn the village
And in turn the flock above him, 250
Saw the village coming nearer,
And the flock receding farther,
Heard the voices growing louder,
Heard the shouting and the laughter;

Saw no more the flocks above him,
Only saw the earth beneath him ;
Dead out of the empty heaven,
Dead among the shouting people,
With a heavy sound and sullen,
Fell the brant with broken pinions. 260

But his soul, his ghost, his shadow,
Still survived as Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Took again the form and features
Of the handsome Yenadizze,
And again went rushing onward,
Followed fast by Hiawatha,
Crying : " Not so wide the world is,
Not so long and rough the way is,
But my wrath shall overtake you,
But my vengeance shall attain you ! "

And so near he came, so near him,
That his hand was stretched to seize
him, 272

His right hand to seize and hold him,
When the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis
Whirled and spun about in circles,
Fanned the air into a whirlwind,
Danced the dust and leaves about him,
And amid the whirling eddies
Sprang into a hollow oak-tree,
Changed himself into a serpent, 280
Gliding out through root and rubbish.

With his right hand Hiawatha
Smote amain the hollow oak-tree,
Rent it into shreds and splinters,
Left it lying there in fragments.
But in vain ; for Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Once again in human figure,
Full in sight ran on before him,
Sped away in gust and whirlwind,
On the shores of Gitche Gumees, 290
Westward by the Big-Sea-Water,
Came unto the rocky headlands,
To the Pictured Rocks of sandstone,
Looking over lake and landscape.

And the Old Man of the Mountain,
He the Manito of Mountains,
Opened wide his rocky doorways,
Opened wide his deep abysses,
Giving Pau-Puk-Keewis shelter
In his caverns dark and dreary, 300
Bidding Pau-Puk-Keewis welcome
To his gloomy lodge of sandstone.

There without stood Hiawatha,
Found the doorways closed against
him,

With his mittens, Minjekahwun,
Smote great caverns in the sandstone,
Cried aloud in tones of thunder,
" Open ! I am Hiawatha ! "

But the old Man of the Mountain
Opened not, and made no answer 310
From the silent crags of sandstone,
From the gloomy rock abysses.

Then he raised his hands to heaven,
Called imploring on the tempest,
Called Waywassimo, the lightning
And the thunder, Annemeekee ;
And they came with night and dark
ness,

Sweeping down the Big-Sea-Water
From the distant Thunder Mountains ;
And the trembling Pau-Puk-Keewis
Heard the footsteps of the thunder, 320
Saw the red eyes of the lightning,
Was afraid, and crouched and trem-
bled.

Then Waywassimo, the lightning,
Smote the doorways of the caverns,
With his war-club smote the door
ways,

Smote the jutting crags of sandstone,
And the thunder, Annemeekee,
Shouted down into the caverns,
Saying, " Where is Pau-Puk-Keewis ! " 330

And the crags fell, and beneath them
Dead among the rocky ruins
Lay the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Lay the handsome Yenadizze,
Slain in his own human figure.

Ended were his wild adventures,
Ended were his tricks and gambols,
Ended all his craft and cunning,
Ended all his mischief-making,
All his gambling and his dancing, 340
All his wooing of the maidens.

Then the noble Hiawatha
Took his soul, his ghost, his shadow,
Spake and said : " O Pau-Puk-Keewis,

Never more in human figure
Shall you search for new adventures ;
Never more with jest and laughter
Dance the dust and leaves in whirl-
winds ;

But above there in the heavens
You shall soar and sail in circles ; 350
I will change you to an eagle,
To Keneu, the great war-eagle,
Chief of all the fowls with feathers,
Chief of Hiawatha's chickens."

And the name of Pau-Puk-Keewis
Lingers still among the people,
Lingers still among the singers,
And among the story-tellers ;

And in Winter, when the snow-flakes
Whirl in eddies round the lodges, 360
When the wind in gusty tumult
O'er the smoke-flue pipes and whistles,
"There," they cry, "comes Pau-Puk-
Keewis;
He is dancing through the village,
He is gathering in his harvest!"

XVIII

THE DEATH OF KWASIND

FAR and wide among the nations
Spread the name and fame of Kwasind;
No man dared to strive with Kwasind,
No man could compete with Kwasind.

But the mischievous Puk-Wudjies,
They the envious Little People,
They the fairies and the pygmies,
Plotted and conspired against him.

"If this hateful Kwasind," said they,

"If this great, outrageous fellow 10
Goes on thus a little longer,
Tearing everything he touches,
Rending everything to pieces,
Filling all the world with wonder,
What becomes of the Puk-Wudjies?
Who will care for the Puk-Wudjies?
He will tread us down like mushrooms,
Drive us all into the water,
Give our bodies to be eaten
By the wicked Nee-ba-naw-baigs, 20
By the Spirits of the water!"

So the angry Little People
All conspired against the Strong Man,
All conspired to murder Kwasind,
Yes, to rid the world of Kwasind,
The audacious, overbearing,
Heartless, haughty, dangerous Kwasind!

Now this wondrous strength of Kwasind
In his crown alone was seated; 29
In his crown too was his weakness;
There alone could he be wounded,
Nowhere else could weapon pierce him,

Nowhere else could weapon harm him.

Even there the only weapon
That could wound him, that could slay him,

Was the seed-cone of the pine-tree,

Was the blue cone of the fir-tree.
This was Kwasind's fatal secret,
Known to no man among mortals;
But the cunning Little People, 40
The Puk-Wudjies, knew the secret,
Knew the only way to kill him.

So they gathered cones together,
Gathered seed-cones of the pine-tree,
Gathered blue cones of the fir-tree,
In the woods by Taquamenaw,
Brought them to the river's margin,
Heaped them in great piles together,
Where the red rocks from the margin
Jutting overhang the river. 50

There they lay in wait for Kwasind,
The malicious Little People.

'T was an afternoon in Summer;
Very hot and still the air was,
Very smooth the gliding river,
Motionless the sleeping shadows:
Insects glistened in the sunshine,
Insects skated on the water,
Filled the drowsy air with buzzing,
With a far resounding war-cry. 60

Down the river came the Strong Man,

In his birch canoe came Kwasind,
Floating slowly down the current
Of the sluggish Taquamenaw,
Very languid with the weather,
Very sleepy with the silence.

From the overhanging branches,
From the tassels of the birch-trees,
Soft the Spirit of Sleep descended;
By his airy hosts surrounded, 70
His invisible attendants,
Came the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin;
Like a burnished Dush-kwo-ne-she,
Like a dragon-fly, he hovered
O'er the drowsy head of Kwasind.

To his ear there came a murmur
As of waves upon a sea-shore,
As of far-off tumbling waters,
As of winds among the pine-trees;
And he felt upon his forehead 80
Blows of little airy war-clubs,
Wielded by the slumbrous legions
Of the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin,
As of some one breathing on him.

At the first blow of their war-clubs,
Fell a drowsiness on Kwasind;
At the second blow they smote him,
Motionless his paddle rested;
At the third, before his vision
Reeled the landscape into darkness, 90
Very sound asleep was Kwasind.

So he floated down the river,
Like a blind man seated upright,
Floated down the Taquamenaw,
Underneath the trembling birch-trees,
Underneath the wooded headlands,
Underneath the war encampment
Of the pygmies, the Puk-Wudjies.

There they stood, all armed and
waiting,
Hurled the pine-cones down upon
him, 100

Struck him on his brawny shoulders,
On his crown defenceless struck him,
"Death to Kwasind!" was the sud-
den

War-cry of the Little People.

And he sideways swayed and tum-
bled,

Sideways fell into the river,
Plunged beneath the sluggish water
Headlong, as an otter plunges;
And the birch canoe, abandoned,
Drifted empty down the river, 110
Bottom upward swerved and drifted:
Nothing more was seen of Kwasind.

But the memory of the Strong Man
Lingered long among the people,

And whenever through the forest
Raged and roared the wintry tempest,
And the branches, tossed and trou-
bled,

Creaked and groaned and split asun-
der,

"Kwasind!" cried they; "that is
Kwasind!"

He is gathering in his fire-wood!" 120

XIX

THE GHOSTS

NEVER stoops the soaring vulture
On his quarry in the desert,
On the sick or wounded bison,
But another vulture, watching
From his high aerial look-out,
Sees the downward plunge, and fol-
lows;

And a third pursues the second,
Coming from the invisible ether,
First a speck, and then a vulture,
Till the air is dark with pinions. 10
So disasters come not singly;

But as if they watched and waited,
Scanning one another's motions,
When the first descends, the others
Follow, follow, gathering flock-wise
Round their victim, sick and wounded,
First a shadow, then a sorrow,
Till the air is dark with anguish.

Now, o'er all the dreary North-
land,

Mighty Peboan, the Winter, 20
Breathing on the lakes and rivers,
Into stone had changed their waters.
From his hair he shook the snow-
flakes,

Till the plains were strewn with white-
ness,

One uninterrupted level,
As if, stooping, the Creator
With his hand had smoothed them
over.

Through the forest, wide and wail-
ing,

Roamed the hunter on his snow-shoes;
In the village worked the women, 30
Pounded maize, or dressed the deer-
skin;

And the young men played together
On the ice the noisy ball-play,
On the plain the dance of snow-shoes.

One dark evening, after sundown,
In her wigwam Laughing Water
Sat with old Nokomis, waiting
For the steps of Hiawatha

Homeward from the hunt returning.

On their faces gleamed the fire-
light, 40

Painting them with streaks of crim-
son,

In the eyes of old Nokomis
Glimmered like the watery moon-
light,

In the eyes of Laughing Water
Glistened like the sun in water;
And behind them crouched their shad-
ows

In the corners of the wigwam,
And the smoke in wreaths above them
Climbed and crowded through the
smoke-flue.

Then the curtain of the doorway 50
From without was slowly lifted;
Brighter glowed the fire a moment,
And a moment swerved the smoke-
wreath,

As two women entered softly,
Passed the doorway uninvited,

Without word of salutation,
Without sign of recognition,
Sat down in the farthest corner,
Crouching low among the shadows.

From their aspect and their gar-
ments, 60

Strangers seemed they in the village;
Very pale and haggard were they,
As they sat there sad and silent,
Trembling, cowering with the shad-
ows.

Was it the wind above the smoke-
flue,

Muttering down into the wigwam?

Was it the owl, the Koko-koho,

Hooting from the dismal forest?

Sure a voice said in the silence : 69

"These are corpses clad in garments,
These are ghosts that come to haunt
you,

From the kingdom of Ponemah,
From the land of the Hereafter!"

Homeward now came Hiawatha

From his hunting in the forest,

With the snow upon his tresses,

And the red deer on his shoulders.

At the feet of Laughing Water

Down he threw his lifeless burden : 79

Nobler, handsomer she thought him,

Than when first he came to woo her,

First threw down the deer before her,

As a token of his wishes,

As a promise of the future.

Then he turned and saw the stran-
gers,

Cowering, crouching with the shad-
ows;

Said within himself, "Who are they ?

What strange guests has Minne-
haha ?"

But he questioned not the strangers,

Only spake to bid them welcome 90

To his lodge, his food, his fireside.

When the evening meal was ready,

And the deer had been divided,

Both the pallid guests, the strangers,

Springing from among the shadows,

Seized upon the choicest portions,

Seized the white fat of the roebuck,

Set apart for Laughing Water,

For the wife of Hiawatha :

Without asking, without thanking, 100

Eagerly devoured the morsels,

Flitted back among the shadows

In the corner of the wigwam.

Not a word spake Hiawatha,

Not a motion made Nokomis,
Not a gesture Laughing Water ;
Not a change came o'er their features ;
Only Minnehaha softly
Whispered, saying, " They are fam-
ished ;

Let them do what best delights them;
Let them eat, for they are famished."

Many a daylight dawned and dark-
ened,

Many a night shook off the daylight
As the pine shakes off the snow-flakes
From the midnight of its branches ;
Day by day the guests unmoving
Sat there silent in the wigwam ;
But by night, in storm or starlight,
Forth they went into the forest,
Bringing fire-wood to the wigwam, ¹²⁰
Bringing pine-cones for the burning,
Always sad and always silent.

And whenever Hiawatha
Came from fishing or from hunting,
When the evening meal was ready,
And the food had been divided,
Gliding from their darksome corner,
Came the pallid guests, the strangers,
Seized upon the choicest portions
Set aside for Laughing Water, 130
And without rebuke or question
Flitted back among the shadows.

Never once had Hiawatha
By a word or look reproved them ;
Never once had old Nokomis
Made a gesture of impatience ;
Never once had Laughing Water
Shown resentment at the outrage.
All had they endured in silence, 139
That the rights of guest and stranger,
That the virtue of free-giving,
By a look might not be lessened,
By a word might not be broken.

Once at midnight Hiawatha,
Ever wakeful, ever watchful,
In the wigwam, dimly lighted
By the brands that still were burning,
By the glimmering, flickering fire-
light,

Heard a sighing, oft repeated,
Heard a sobbing, as of sorrow. 150

From his couch rose Hiawatha,
From his shaggy hides of bison,
Pushed aside the deer-skin curtain,
Saw the pallid guests, the shadows,
Sitting upright on their couches,
Weeping in the silent midnight.

And he said: "O guests! why is it

That your hearts are so afflicted,
That you sob so in the midnight?
Has perchance the old Nokomis, 160
Has my wife, my Minnehaha,
Wronged or grieved you by unkind-
ness.

Failed in hospitable duties ?”

Then the shadows ceased from weeping.

Ceased from sobbing and lamenting.
And they said, with gentle voices :
“ We are ghosts of the departed,
Souls of those who once were with
you.

From the realms of Chibiabos
Hither have we come to try you, 170
Hither have we come to warn you.

“Cries of grief and lamentation
Reach us in the Blessed Islands ;
Cries of anguish from the living,
Calling back their friends departed,
Sadden us with useless sorrow.
Therefore have we come to try you ;
No one knows us, no one heeds us.
We are but a burden to you,
And we see that the departed
Have no place among the living.

“ Think of this, O Hiawatha!
 Speak of it to all the people,
 That henceforward and forever
 They no more with lamentations
 Sadden the souls of the departed
 In the Islands of the Blessed.

“Do not lay such heavy burdens
In the graves of those you bury,
Not such weight of furs and wampum,
Not such weight of pots and kettles,
For the spirits faint beneath them. 197
Only give them food to carry,
Only give them fire to light them.

“Four days is the spirit’s journey
To the land of ghosts and shadows,
Four its lonely night encampments ;
Four times must their fires be lighted.
Therefore, when the dead are buried,
Let a fire, as night approaches, 200
Four times on the grave be kindled,
That the soul upon its journey
May not lack the cheerful firelight,
May not grope about in darkness.

“Farewell, noble Hiawatha !
We have put you to the trial,
To the proof have put your patience,
By the insult of our presence,
By the outrage of our actions.
We have found you great and noble.

Fail not in the greater trial, 211
Faint not in the harder struggle."

When they ceased, a sudden darkness

Fell and filled the silent wigwam.

Hiawatha heard a rustle

As of garments trailing by him,

Heard the curtain of the doorway

Lifted by a hand he saw not,

Felt the cold breath of the night air,
For a moment saw the starlight; 220

But he saw the ghosts no longer,

Saw no more the wandering spirits

From the kingdom of Ponemah,

From the land of the Hereafter.

XX

THE FAMINE

Oh the long and dreary Winter!

Oh the cold and cruel Winter!

Ever thicker, thicker, thicker

Froze the ice on lake and river,

Ever deeper, deeper, deeper

Fell the snow o'er all the landscape,

Fell the covering snow, and drifted

Through the forest, round the village.

Hardly from his buried wigwam

Could the hunter force a passage; 10

With his mittens and his snow-shoes

Vainly walked he through the forest,

Sought for bird or beast and found
none,

Saw no track of deer or rabbit,

In the snow beheld no footprints,

In the ghastly, gleaming forest

Fell, and could not rise from weakness,

Perished there from cold and hunger.

Oh the famine and the fever!

Oh the wasting of the famine! 20

Oh the blasting of the fever!

Oh the wailing of the children!

Oh the anguish of the women!

All the earth was sick and famished;

Hungry was the air around them,

Hungry was the sky above them,

And the hungry stars in heaven

Like the eyes of wolves glared at
them!

Into Hiawatha's wigwam

Came two other guests, as silent 30

As the ghosts were, and as gloomy,

Waited not to be invited,

Did not parley at the doorway,

Sat there without word of welcome

In the seat of Laughing Water;

Looked with haggard eyes and hollow

At the face of Laughing Water.

And the foremost said: "Behold
me!

I am Famine, Bukadawin!"

And the other said: "Behold me! 40

I am Fever, Ahkosewin!"

And the lovely Minnehaha

Shuddered as they looked upon her,

Shuddered at the words they uttered,

Lay down on her bed in silence,

Hid her face, but made no answer;

Lay there trembling, freezing, burn-
ing

At the looks they cast upon her,

At the fearful words they uttered.

Forth into the empty forest 50

Rushed the maddened Hiawatha;

In his heart was deadly sorrow,

In his face a stony firmness;

On his brow the sweat of anguish

Started, but it froze and fell not.

Wrapped in furs and armed for
hunting,

With his mighty bow of ash-tree,

With his quiver full of arrows,

With his mittens, Minjekahwun,

Into the vast and vacant forest 60

On his snow-shoes strode he forward.

"Gitche Manito, the Mighty!"

Cried he with his face uplifted

In that bitter hour of anguish,

"Give your children food, O father!

Give us food, or we must perish!

Give me food for Minnehaha,

For my dying Minnehaha!"

Through the far-resounding forest,

Through the forest vast and vacant 70

Rang that cry of desolation,

But there came no other answer

Than the echo of his crying,

Than the echo of the woodlands,

"Minnehaha! Minnehaha!"

All day long roved Hiawatha

In that melancholy forest,

Through the shadow of whose thick-
ets,

In the pleasant days of Summer,

Of that ne'er forgotten Summer, 80

He had brought his young wife home-
ward

From the land of the Dacotahs;

When the birds sang in the thickets,

And the streamlets laughed and glistened,

And the air was full of fragrance,
And the lovely Laughing Water
Said with voice that did not tremble,
"I will follow you, my husband!"

In the wigwam with Nokomis,
With those gloomy guests that watched her, 90

With the Famine and the Fever,
She was lying, the Belovèd,
She, the dying Minnehaha.

"Hark!" she said; "I hear a rushing,

Hear a roaring and a rushing,
Hear the Falls of Minnehaha
Calling to me from a distance!"

"No, my child!" said old Nokomis,
"'Tis the night-wind in the pine-trees!"

"Look!" she said; "I see my father
Standing lonely at his doorway, 101
Beckoning to me from his wigwam
In the land of the Dacotahs!"

"No, my child!" said old Nokomis.
"'Tis the smoke, that waves and beckons!"

"Ah!" said she, "the eyes of Pauguk

Glare upon me in the darkness,
I can feel his icy fingers
Clasping mine amid the darkness!
Hiawatha! Hiawatha!" 110

And the desolate Hiawatha,
Far away amid the forest,
Miles away among the mountains,
Heard that sudden cry of anguish,
Heard the voice of Minnehaha
Calling to him in the darkness,
"Hiawatha! Hiawatha!"

Over snow-fields waste and pathless,

Under snow-encumbered branches,
Homeward hurried Hiawatha, 120
Empty-handed, heavy-hearted,
Heard Nokomis moaning, wailing:
"Wahonowin! Wahonowin!"

Would that I had perished for you,
Would that I were dead as you are!
Wahonowin! Wahonowin!"

And he rushed into the wigwam,
Saw the old Nokomis slowly
Rocking to and fro and moaning,
Saw his lovely Minnehaha 130
Lying dead and cold before him,
And his bursting heart within him

Uttered such a cry of anguish,
That the forest moaned and shuddered,

That the very stars in heaven
Shook and trembled with his anguish.

Then he sat down, still and speechless,

On the bed of Minnehaha,
At the feet of Laughing Water,
At those willing feet, that never 140
More would lightly run to meet him,
Never more would lightly follow.

With both hands his face he covered,
Seven long days and nights he sat there,

As if in a swoon he sat there,
Speechless, motionless, unconscious
Of the daylight or the darkness.

Then they buried Minnehaha;
In the snow a grave they made her,
In the forest deep and darksome, 150
Underneath the moaning hemlocks;
Clothed her in her richest garments,
Wrapped her in her robes of ermine,
Covered her with snow, like ermine;
Thus they buried Minnehaha.

And at night a fire was lighted,
On her grave four times was kindled,
For her soul upon its journey
To the Islands of the Blessed.
From his doorway Hiawatha 160
Saw it burning in the forest,
Lighting up the gloomy hemlocks;
From his sleepless bed uprising,
From the bed of Minnehaha,
Stood and watched it at the doorway,

That it might not be extinguished,
Might not leave her in the darkness.

"Farewell!" said he, "Minnehaha!
Farewell, O my Laughing Water!
All my heart is buried with you, 170
All my thoughts go onward with you!"

Come not back again to suffer,
Come not back again to labor,
Where the Famine and the Fever
Wear the heart and waste the body.
Soon my task will be completed,
Soon your footsteps I shall follow
To the Islands of the Blessed,
To the Kingdom of Ponemah,
To the Land of the Hereafter!" 180

XXI

THE WHITE MAN'S FOOT

In his lodge beside a river,
 Close beside a frozen river,
 Sat an old man, sad and lonely.
 White his hair was as a snow-drift;
 Dull and low his fire was burning.
 And the old man shook and trembled,
 Folded in his Waubewyon,
 In his tattered white-skin-wrapper,
 Hearing nothing but the tempest

On his lips a smile of beauty,
 Filling all the lodge with sunshine,
 In his hand a bunch of blossoms
 Filling all the lodge with sweetness.
 "Ah, my son!" exclaimed the old
 man,
 "Happy are my eyes to see you.
 Sit here on the mat beside me,
 Sit here by the dying embers,
 Let us pass the night together,
 Tell me of your strange adventures,³⁰
 Of the lands where you have trav-
 elled;

"Ah, my son!" exclaimed the old man,
 "Happy are my eyes to see you!"

As it roared along the forest,¹⁰
 Seeing nothing but the snow-storm,
 As it whirled and hissed and drifted.
 All the coals were white with ashes,
 And the fire was slowly dying,
 As a young man, walking lightly,
 At the open doorway entered.
 Red with blood of youth his cheeks
 were,
 Soft his eyes, as stars in Spring-time,
 Bound his forehead was with grasses;
 Bound and plumed with scented
 grasses,²⁰

I will tell you of my prowess,
 Of my many deeds of wonder."
 From his pouch he drew his peace
 pipe,
 Very old and strangely fashioned
 Made of red stone was the pipe-head,
 And the stem a reed with feathers;
 Filled the pipe with bark of willow,
 Placed a burning coal upon it,
 Gave it to his guest, the stranger,⁴⁰
 And began to speak in this wise:
 "When I blow my breath about me,
 When I breathe upon the landscape,

Motionless are all the rivers,
Hard as stone becomes the water ! ”

And the young man answered, smiling :

“ When I blow my breath about me,
When I breathe upon the landscape,
Flowers spring up o’er all the meadows,

Singing, onward rush the rivers ! ” 50

“ When I shake my hoary tresses,”
Said the old man darkly frowning,
“ All the land with snow is covered ;
All the leaves from all the branches
Fall and fade and die and wither,
For I breathe, and lo ! they are not.

From the waters and the marshes
Rise the wild goose and the heron,
Fly away to distant regions,
For I speak, and lo ! they are not. 60

And where’er my footsteps wander,
All the wild beasts of the forest
Hide themselves in holes and caverns,
And the earth becomes as flintstone ! ”

“ When I shake my flowing ringlets,”

Said the young man, softly laughing,
“ Showers of rain fall warm and welcome,

Plants lift up their heads rejoicing,
Back into their lakes and marshes
Come the wild goose and the heron, 70
Homeward shoots the arrowy swallow,
Sing the bluebird and the robin,
And where’er my footsteps wander,
All the meadows wave with blossoms,
All the woodlands ring with music,
All the trees are dark with foliage ! ”

While they spake, the night departed :

From the distant realms of Wabun,
From his shining lodge of silver,
Like a warrior robed and painted, 80
Came the sun, and said, “ Behold me,
Gheezis, the great sun, behold me ! ”

Then the old man’s tongue was speechless

And the air grew warm and pleasant,
And upon the wigwam sweetly
Sang the bluebird and the robin,
And the stream began to murmur,
And a scent of growing grasses
Through the lodge was gently wafted.

And Segwun, the youthful stranger,
More distinctly in the daylight 91
Saw the icy face before him ;
It was Peboan, the Winter !

From his eyes the tears were flowing,

As from melting lakes the streamlets,
And his body shrunk and dwindled
As the shouting sun ascended,
Till into the air it faded,
Till into the ground it vanished, 99
And the young man saw before him,
On the hearth-stone of the wigwam,
Where the fire had smoked and smouldered,

Saw the earliest flower of Spring-time,
Saw the Beauty of the Spring-time,
Saw the Miskodeed in blossom.

Thus it was that in the North-land
After that unheard-of coldness,
That intolerable Winter,
Came the Spring with all its splendor.
All its birds and all its blossoms, 110
All its flowers and leaves and grasses.

Sailing on the wind to northward,
Flying in great flocks, like arrows,
Like huge arrows shot through heaven,

Passed the swan, the Mahnahbezee,
Speaking almost as a man speaks ;
And in long lines waving, bending
Like a bow-string snapped asunder,
Came the white goose, Waw-be-wawa ;
And in pairs, or singly flying, 120
Mahng the loon, with clangorous pinions,

The blue heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
And the grouse, the Mushkodasa.

In the thickets and the meadows
Piped the bluebird, the Owaissa,
On the summit of the lodges
Sang the robin, the Opechee,
In the covert of the pine-trees
Cooed the pigeon, the Omemee ;
And the sorrowing Hiawatha, 130
Speechless in his infinite sorrow,
Heard their voices calling to him,
Went forth from his gloomy doorway,
Stood and gazed into the heaven,
Gazed upon the earth and waters.

From his wanderings far to eastward,

From the regions of the morning,
From the shining land of Wabun,
Homeward now returned Iagoo, 139
The great traveller, the great boaster.
Full of new and strange adventures,
Marvels many and many wonders.

And the people of the village
Listened to him as he told them

Of his marvellous adventures,
Laughing answered him in this wise :
" Ugh! it is indeed Iagoo!

No one else beholds such wonders ! "

He had seen, he said, a water
Bigger than the Big-Sea-Water, 150
Broader than the Gitche Gumee,
Bitter so that none could drink it !
At each other looked the warriors,
Looked the women at each other,
Smiled, and said, " It cannot be so !
Kaw ! " they said, " it cannot be so ! "

O'er it, said he, o'er this water
Came a great canoe with pinions,
A canoe with wings came flying,
Bigger than a grove of pine-trees, 160
Taller than the tallest tree-tops !
And the old men and the women
Looked and tittered at each other ;
" Kaw ! " they said, " we don't believe
it ! "

From its mouth, he said, to greet
him,
Came Waywassimo, the lightning,
Came the thunder, Annemeekee !
And the warriors and the women
Laughed aloud at poor Iagoo ;
" Kaw ! " they said, " what tales you
tell us ! " 170

In it, said he, came a people,
In the great canoe with pinions
Came, he said, a hundred warriors ;
Painted white were all their faces
And with hair their chins were covered !

And the warriors and the women
Laughed and shouted in derision,
Like the ravens on the tree-tops,
Like the crows upon the hemlocks.
" Kaw ! " they said, " what lies you
tell us ! " 180

Do not think that we believe them ! "

Only Hiawatha laughed not,
But he gravely spake and answered
To their jeering and their jesting :

" True is all Iagoo tells us ;
I have seen it in a vision,
Seen the great canoe with pinions,
Seen the people with white faces,
Seen the coming of this bearded
People of the wooden vessel 190
From the regions of the morning,
From the shining land of Wabun.

" Gitche Manito, the Mighty,
The Great Spirit, the Creator,
Sends them hither on his errand,

Sends them to us with his message.
Wheresoe'er they move, before them
Swarms the stinging fly, the Ahmo,
Swarms the bee, the honey-maker ; 199
Wheresoe'er they tread, beneath them
Springs a flower unknown among us,
Springs the White-man's Foot in
blossom.

" Let us welcome, then, the stran-
gers,

Hail them as our friends and brothers,
And the heart's right hand of friend-
ship

Give them when they come to see us.
Gitche Manito, the Mighty,
Said this to me in my vision.

" I beheld, too, in that vision
All the secrets of the future, 210
Of the distant days that shall be.
I beheld the westward marches
Of the unknown, crowded nations.

All the land was full of people,
Restless, struggling, toiling, striving,
Speaking many tongues, yet feeling
But one heart-beat in their bosoms.

In the woodlands rang their axes,
Smoked their towns in all the valleys,
Over all the lakes and rivers 220
Rushed their great canoes of thunder.

" Then a darker, drearier vision
Passed before me, vague and cloud-
like ;

I beheld our nation scattered,
All forgetful of my counsels,
Weakened, warring with each other :
Saw the remnants of our people
Sweeping westward, wild and woful,
Like the cloud-rack of a tempest,
Like the withered leaves of Au-
tumn ! " 230

XXII

HIAWATHA'S DEPARTURE

By the shore of Gitche Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
At the doorway of his wigwam,
In the pleasant Summer morning,
Hiawatha stood and waited.

All the air was full of freshness,
All the earth was bright and joyous,
And before him, through the sun-
shine,

Westward toward the neighboring
forest

Passed in golden swarms the Ahmo, 10
Passed the bees, the honey-makers,
Burning, singing in the sunshine.

Bright above him shone the hea-
vens,
Level spread the lake before him ;
From its bosom leaped the sturgeon,
Sparkling, flashing in the sunshine ;
On its margin the great forest
Stood reflected in the water,
Every tree-top had its shadow,
Motionless beneath the water. 20

From the brow of Hiawatha
Gone was every trace of sorrow,
As the fog from off the water,
As the mist from off the meadow.
With a smile of joy and triumph,
With a look of exultation,
As of one who in a vision
Sees what is to be, but is not,
Stood and waited Hiawatha.

Toward the sun his hands were
lifted, 30
Both the palms spread out against it,
And between the parted fingers
Fell the sunshine on his features,
Flecked with light his naked shoul-
ders,
As it falls and flecks an oak-tree
Through the rifted leaves and
branches.

O'er the water floating, flying,
Something in the hazy distance,
Something in the mists of morning,
Loomed and lifted from the water, 40
Now seemed floating, now seemed
flying,

Coming nearer, nearer, nearer.

Was it Shingebis the diver ?
Or the pelican, the Shada ?
Or the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah ?
Or the white goose, Waw-be-wawa,
With the water dripping, flashing,
From its glossy neck and feathers ?

It was neither goose nor diver,
Neither pelican nor heron, 50
O'er the water floating, flying,
Through the shining mist of morning,
But a birch canoe with paddles,
Rising, sinking on the water,
Dripping, flashing in the sunshine ;
And within it came a people
From the distant land of Wabun,
From the farthest realms of morning
Came the Black-Robe chief, the Pro-
phet,

He the Priest of Prayer, the Pale-
face, 60

With his guides and his companions.

And the noble Hiawatha,
With his hands aloft extended,
Held aloft in sign of welcome,
Waited, full of exultation,
Till the birch canoe with paddles
Grated on the shining pebbles,
Stranded on the sandy margin,
Till the Black-Robe chief, the Pale-
face,

With the cross upon his bosom, 70
Landed on the sandy margin.

Then the joyous Hiawatha
Cried aloud and spake in this wise :
“ Beautiful is the sun, O strangers,
When you come so far to see us !
All our town in peace awaits you,
All our doors stand open for you ;
You shall enter all our wigwams,
For the heart's right hand we give
you. 79

“ Never bloomed the earth so gayly
Never shone the sun so brightly,
As to-day they shine and blossom
When you come so far to see us !
Never was our lake so tranquil,
Nor so free from rocks and sand-bars ;
For your birch canoe in passing
Has removed both rock and sand-bar.

“ Never before had our tobacco
Such a sweet and pleasant flavor,
Never the broad leaves of our corn-
fields 90

Were so beautiful to look on,
As they seem to us this morning,
When you come so far to see us !”

And the Black-Robe chief made an-
swer,

Stammered in his speech a little,
Speaking words yet unfamiliar :
“ Peace be with you, Hiawatha,
Peace be with you and your people,
Peace of prayer, and peace of pardon,
Peace of Christ, and joy of Mary !” 100

Then the generous Hiawatha
Led the strangers to his wigwam,
Seated them on skins of bison,
Seated them on skins of ermine,
And the careful old Nokomis
Brought them food in bowls of bass-
wood,
Water brought in birchen dippers,
And the calumet, the peace-pipe.
Filled and lighted for their smoking.

All the old men of the village, 110
 All the warriors of the nation,
 All the Jossakeeds, the Prophets,
 The magicians, the Wabenos,
 And the Medicine-men, the Medas,
 Came to bid the strangers welcome;
 "It is well," they said, "O brothers,
 That you come so far to see us!"

And her blessed Son, the Saviour,
 How in distant lands and ages
 He had lived on earth as we do;
 How he fasted, prayed, and labored;
 How the Jews, the tribe accursed,
 Mocked him, scourged him, crucified
 him,
 How he rose from where they laid him,

"Came the Black-Robe chief, . . . the Pale-face,
 With his guides and his companions"

In a circle round the doorway,
 With their pipes they sat in silence,
 Waiting to behold the strangers, 120
 Waiting to receive their message:
 Till the Black-Robe chief, the Pale-
 face,
 From the wigwam came to greet
 them,
 Stammering in his speech a little,
 Speaking words yet unfamiliar;
 "It is well," they said, "O brother,
 That you come so far to see us!"
 Then the Black-Robe chief, the
 Prophet,
 Told his message to the people,
 Told the purport of his mission, 130
 Told them of the Virgin Mary,

Walked again with his disciples,
 And ascended into heaven. 140
 And the chiefs made answer, say-
 ing:
 "We have listened to your message,
 We have heard your words of wis-
 dom,
 We will think on what you tell us.
 It is well for us, O brothers,
 That you come so far to see us!"
 Then they rose up and departed
 Each one homeward to his wigwam,
 To the young men and the women
 Told the story of the strangers 150
 Whom the Master of Life had sent
 them
 From the shining land of Wabun.

Heavy with the heat and silence
Grew the afternoon of Summer ;
With a drowsy sound the forest
Whispered round the sultry wigwam,
With a sound of sleep the water
Rippled on the beach below it ;
From the cornfields shrill and cease-
less

Sang the grasshopper, Pah-puk-
keena ; 160

And the guests of Hiawatha,
Weary with the heat of Summer,
Slumbered in the sultry wigwam.

Slowly o'er the simmering land-
scape

Fell the evening's dusk and coolness,
And the long and level sunbeams
Shot their spears into the forest,
Breaking through its shields of shad-
ow,

Rushed into each secret ambush, 169
Searched each thicket, dingle, hollow ;
Still the guests of Hiawatha
Slumbered in the silent wigwam.

From his place rose Hiawatha,
Bade farewell to old Nokomis,
Spake in whispers, spake in this wise,
Did not wake the guests, that slum-
bered.

"I am going, O Nokomis,
On a long and distant journey,
To the portals of the Sunset,
To the regions of the home-wind, 180
Of the Northwest-Wind, Keewaydin.
But these guests I leave behind me,
In your watch and ward I leave them ;
See that never harm comes near them,
See that never fear molests them,
Never danger nor suspicion,
Never want of food or shelter,
In the lodge of Hiawatha!"

Forth into the village went he,
Bade farewell to all the warriors, 190
Bade farewell to all the young men,
Spake persuading, spake in this wise:

"I am going, O my people,
On a long and distant journey ;
Many moons and many winters
Will have come, and will have van-
ished,

Ere I come again to see you.
But my guests I leave behind me ;

Listen to their words of wisdom,
Listen to the truth they tell you, 200
For the Master of Life has sent them
From the land of light and morning!"

On the shore stood Hiawatha,
Turned and waved his hand at part-
ing ;

On the clear and luminous water
Launched his birch canoe for sailing,
From the pebbles of the margin
Shoved it forth into the water ;
Whispered to it, "Westward! west-
ward!"

And with speed it darted forward. 210

And the evening sun descending
Set the clouds on fire with redness,
Burned the broad sky, like a prairie,
Left upon the level water
One long track and trail of splendor,
Down whose stream, as down a river,
Westward, westward Hiawatha
Sailed into the fiery sunset,
Sailed into the purple vapors,
Sailed into the dusk of evening. 220

And the people from the margin
Watched him floating, rising, sinking,
Till the birch canoe seemed lifted
High into that sea of splendor,
Till it sank into the vapors
Like the new moon slowly, slowly
Sinking in the purple distance.

And they said, "Farewell forever!"
Said, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"
And the forests, dark and lonely, 230
Moved through all their depths of
darkness,

Sighed, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"
And the waves upon the margin
Rising, rippling on the pebbles,
Sobbed, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
From her haunts among the fen-lands,
Screamed, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"

Thus departed Hiawatha,
Hiawatha the Belovèd, 240
In the glory of the sunset,
In the purple mists of evening,
To the regions of the home-wind,
Of the Northwest-Wind, Keewaydin,
To the Islands of the Blessèd,
To the Kingdom of Ponemah,
To the Land of the Hereafter!

. . . "Priscilla, the loveliest maiden of Plymouth."

THE COURTSHIP OF MILES STANDISH

I

MILES STANDISH

In the Old Colony days, in Plymouth the land of the Pilgrims,
To and fro in a room of his simple and primitive dwelling,
Clad in doublet and hose, and boots of Cordovan leather,
Strode, with a martial air, Miles Standish the Puritan Captain.
Buried in thought he seemed, with his hands behind him, and pausing
Ever and anon to behold his glittering weapons of warfare,
Hanging in shining array along the walls of the chamber, —
Cutlass and corselet of steel, and his trusty sword of Damascus,
Curved at the point and inscribed with its mystical Arabic sentence,
While underneath, in a corner, were fowling-piece, musket, and matchlock. 20
Short of stature he was, but strongly built and athletic,
Broad in the shoulders, deep-chested, with muscles and sinews of iron ;

Brown as a nut was his face, but his russet beard was already
 Flaked with patches of snow, as hedges sometimes in November.
 Near him was seated John Alden, his friend and household companion,
 Writing with diligent speed at a table of pine by the window ;
 Fair-haired, azure-eyed, with delicate Saxon complexion,
 Having the dew of his youth, and the beauty thereof, as the captives
 Whom Saint Gregory saw, and exclaimed, " Not Angles, but Angels."
 Youngest of all was he of the men who came in the Mayflower.

20

Suddenly breaking the silence, the diligent scribe interrupting,
 Spake, in the pride of his heart, Miles Standish the Captain of Plymouth.
 " Look at these arms," he said, " the warlike weapons that hang here
 Burnished and bright and clean, as if for parade or inspection!
 This is the sword of Damascus I fought with in Flanders; this breastplate,
 Well I remember the day ! once saved my life in a skirmish ;
 Here in front you can see the very dint of the bullet
 Fired point-blank at my heart by a Spanish arcabucero.
 Had it not been of sheer steel, the forgotten bones of Miles Standish
 Would at this moment be mould, in their grave in the Flemish morasses."
 Thereupon answered John Alden, but looked not up from his writing:
 " Truly the breath of the Lord hath slackened the speed of the bullet ;
 He in his mercy preserved you, to be our shield and our weapon !"
 Still the Captain continued, unheeding the words of the stripling :
 " See, how bright they are burnished, as if in an arsenal hanging ;
 That is because I have done it myself, and not left it to others.
 Serve yourself, would you be well served, is an excellent adage ;
 So I take care of my arms, as you of your pens and your inkhorn.
 Then, too, there are my soldiers, my great, invincible army,
 Twelve men, all equipped, having each his rest and his matchlock,
 Eighteen shillings a month, together with diet and pillage,
 And, like Cæsar, I know the name of each of my soldiers !"
 This he said with a smile, that danced in his eyes, as the sunbeams
 Dance on the waves of the sea, and vanish again in a moment.
 Alden laughed as he wrote, and still the Captain continued :
 " Look ! you can see from this window my brazen howitzer planted
 High on the roof of the church, a preacher who speaks to the purpose,
 Steady, straightforward, and strong, with irresistible logic,
 Orthodox, flashing conviction right into the hearts of the heathen.
 Now we are ready, I think, for any assault of the Indians ;
 Let them come, if they like, and the sooner they try it the better, —
 Let them come, if they like, be it sagamore, sachem, or pow-wow,
 Aspinet, Samoset, Corbitant, Squanto, or Tokamahamon !"

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Long at the window he stood, and wistfully gazed on the landscape,
 Washed with a cold gray mist, the vapory breath of the east-wind,
 Forest and meadow and hill, and the steel-blue rim of the ocean,
 Lying silent and sad, in the afternoon shadows and sunshine.
 Over his countenance flitted a shadow like those on the landscape,
 Gloom intermingled with light ; and his voice was subdued with emotion,
 Tenderness, pity, regret, as after a pause he proceeded :

60

" Yonder there, on the hill by the sea, lies buried Rose Standish ;
Beautiful rose of love, that bloomed for me by the wayside !
She was the first to die of all who came in the Mayflower !
Green above her is growing the field of wheat we have sown there,
Better to hide from the Indian scouts the graves of our people,
Lest they should count them and see how many already have perished !"
Sadly his face he averted, and strode up and down, and was thoughtful.

Fixed to the opposite wall was a shelf of books, and among them
Prominent three, distinguished alike for bulk and for binding ;
Bariffe's Artillery Guide, and the Commentaries of Cæsar 70
Out of the Latin translated by Arthur Goldinge of London,
And, as if guarded by these, between them was standing the Bible.
Musing a moment before them, Miles Standish paused, as if doubtful
Which of the three he should choose for his consolation and comfort,
Whether the wars of the Hebrews, the famous campaigns of the Romans,
Or the Artillery practice, designed for belligerent Christians.
Finally down from its shelf he dragged the ponderous Roman,
Seated himself at the window, and opened the book, and in silence
Turned o'er the well-worn leaves, where thumb-marks thick on the margin, 80
Like the trample of feet, proclaimed the battle was hottest.
Nothing was heard in the room but the hurrying pen of the stripling,
Busily writing epistles important, to go by the Mayflower,
Ready to sail on the morrow, or next day at latest, God willing !
Homeward bound with the tidings of all that terrible winter,
Letters written by Alden, and full of the name of Priscilla !
Full of the name and the fame of the Puritan maiden Priscilla !

II

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP

Nothing was heard in the room but the hurrying pen of the stripling,
Or an occasional sigh from the laboring heart of the Captain,
Reading the marvellous words and achievements of Julius Cæsar.
After a while he exclaimed, as he smote with his hand, palm downwards, 90
Heavily on the page : " A wonderful man was this Cæsar !
You are a writer, and I am a fighter, but here is a fellow
Who could both write and fight, and in both was equally skilful !"
Straightway answered and spake John Alden, the comely, the youthful :
" Yes, he was equally skilled, as you say, with his pen and his weapons.
Somewhere have I read, but where I forget, he could dictate
Seven letters at once, at the same time writing his memoirs."
" Truly," continued the Captain, not heeding or hearing the other,
" Truly a wonderful man was Caius Julius Cæsar !
Better be first, he said, in a little Iberian village, 100
Than be second in Rome, and I think he was right when he said it.
Twice was he married before he was twenty, and many times after ;
Battles five hundred he fought, and a thousand cities he conquered ;
He, too, fought in Flanders, as he himself has recorded ;

Finally he was stabbed by his friend, the orator Brutus!
 Now, do you know what he did on a certain occasion in Flanders,
 When the rear-guard of his army retreated, the front giving way too,
 And the immortal Twelfth Legion was crowded so closely together
 There was no room for their swords? Why, he seized a shield from a soldier,
 Put himself straight at the head of his troops, and commanded the captains, 110
 Calling on each by his name, to order forward the ensigns;
 Then to widen the ranks, and give more room for their weapons;
 So he won the day, the battle of something-or-other.
 That's what I always say; if you wish a thing to be well done,
 You must do it yourself, you must not leave it to others!"

All was silent again; the Captain continued his reading.
 Nothing was heard in the room but the hurrying pen of the stripling
 Writing epistles important to go next day by the Mayflower,
 Filled with the name and the fame of the Puritan maiden Priscilla;
 Every sentence began or closed with the name of Priscilla, 120
 Till the treacherous pen, to which he confided the secret,
 Strove to betray it by singing and shouting the name of Priscilla!
 Finally closing his book, with a bang of the ponderous cover,
 Sudden and loud as the sound of a soldier grounding his musket,
 Thus to the young man spake Miles Standish the Captain of Plymouth:
 "When you have finished your work, I have something important to tell you.
 Be not however in haste; I can wait; I shall not be impatient!"
 Straightway Alden replied, as he folded the last of his letters,
 Pushing his papers aside, and giving respectful attention:
 "Speak; for whenever you speak, I am always ready to listen, 130
 Always ready to hear whatever pertains to Miles Standish."
 Thereupon answered the Captain, embarrassed, and culling his phrases:
 "'Tis not good for a man to be alone, say the Scriptures.
 This I have said before, and again and again I repeat it;
 Every hour in the day, I think it, and feel it, and say it.
 Since Rose Standish died, my life has been weary and dreary;
 Sick at heart have I been, beyond the healing of friendship;
 Oft in my lonely hours have I thought of the maiden Priscilla.
 She is alone in the world; her father and mother and brother
 Died in the winter together; I saw her going and coming, 140
 Now to the grave of the dead, and now to the bed of the dying,
 Patient, courageous, and strong, and said to myself, that if ever
 There were angels on earth, as there are angels in heaven,
 Two have I seen and known; and the angel whose name is Priscilla
 Holds in my desolate life the place which the other abandoned.
 Long have I cherished the thought, but never have dared to reveal it,
 Being a coward in this, though valiant enough for the most part.
 Go to the damsel Priscilla, the loveliest maiden of Plymouth,
 Say that a blunt old Captain, a man not of words but of actions,
 Offers his hand and his heart, the hand and heart of a soldier. 150
 Not in these words, you know, but this in short is my meaning:
 I am a maker of war, and not a maker of phrases.
 You, who are bred as a scholar, can say it in elegant language,

Such as you read in your books of the pleadings and wooings of lovers,
Such as you think best adapted to win the heart of a maiden."

When he had spoken, John Alden, the fair-haired, taciturn stripling,
All aghast at his words, surprised, embarrassed, bewildered,
Trying to mask his dismay by treating the subject with lightness,
Trying to smile, and yet feeling his heart stand still in his bosom,
Just as a timepiece stops in a house that is stricken by lightning, 160
Thus made answer and spake, or rather stammered than answered:
"Such a message as that, I am sure I should mangle and mar it;
If you would have it well done, — I am only repeating your maxim, —
You must do it yourself, you must not leave it to others!"
But with the air of a man whom nothing can turn from his purpose,
Gravely shaking his head, made answer the Captain of Plymouth:
"Truly the maxim is good, and I do not mean to gainsay it;
But we must use it discreetly, and not waste powder for nothing.
Now, as I said before, I was never a maker of phrases.
I can march up to a fortress and summon the place to surrender, 170
But march up to a woman with such a proposal, I dare not.
I'm not afraid of bullets, nor shot from the mouth of a cannon,
But of a thundering 'No!' point-blank from the mouth of a woman,
That I confess I'm afraid of, nor am I ashamed to confess it!
So you must grant my request, for you are an elegant scholar,
Having the graces of speech, and skill in the turning of phrases."
Taking the hand of his friend, who still was reluctant and doubtful,
Holding it long in his own, and pressing it kindly, he added:
"Though I have spoken thus lightly, yet deep is the feeling that prompts me;
Surely you cannot refuse what I ask in the name of our friendship!" 180
Then made answer John Alden: "The name of friendship is sacred;
What you demand in that name, I have not the power to deny you!"
So the strong will prevailed, subduing and moulding the gentler,
Friendship prevailed over love, and Alden went on his errand.

III

THE LOVER'S ERRAND

So the strong will prevailed, and Alden went on his errand,
Out of the street of the village, and into the paths of the forest,
Into the tranquil woods, where bluebirds and robins were building
Towns in the populous trees, with hanging gardens of verdure,
Peaceful, aerial cities of joy and affection and freedom.
All around him was calm, but within him commotion and conflict, 190
Love contending with friendship, and self with each generous impulse.
To and fro in his breast his thoughts were heaving and dashing,
As in a foundering ship, with every roll of the vessel,
Washes the bitter sea, the merciless surge of the ocean!
"Must I relinquish it all," he cried with a wild lamentation, —
"Must I relinquish it all, the joy, the hope, the illusion?
Was it for this I have loved, and waited, and worshipped in silence?"

Was it for this I have followed the flying feet and the shadow
 Over the wintry sea, to the desolate shores of New England ?
 Truly the heart is deceitful, and out of its depths of corruption
 Rise, like an exhalation, the misty phantoms of passion ;
 Angels of light they seem, but are only delusions of Satan.
 All is clear to me now ; I feel it, I see it distinctly !
 This is the hand of the Lord ; it is laid upon me in anger,
 For I have followed too much the heart's desires and devices,
 Worshipping Astaroth blindly, and impious idols of Baal.
 This is the cross I must bear ; the sin and the swift retribution."

206

So through the Plymouth woods John Alden went on his errand ;
 Crossing the brook at the ford, where it brawled over pebble and shallow,
 Gathering still, as he went, the May-flowers blooming around him,
 Fragrant, filling the air with a strange and wonderful sweetness,
 Children lost in the woods, and covered with leaves in their slumber.
 " Puritan flowers," he said, " and the type of Puritan maidens,
 Modest and simple and sweet, the very type of Priscilla !
 So I will take them to her ; to Priscilla the Mayflower of Plymouth,
 Modest and simple and sweet, as a parting gift will I take them ;
 Breathing their silent farewells, as they fade and wither and perish,
 Soon to be thrown away as is the heart of the giver."

210

So through the Plymouth woods John Alden went on his errand ;
 Came to an open space, and saw the disk of the ocean,
 Sailless, sombre and cold with the comfortless breath of the east-wind ;
 Saw the new-built house, and people at work in a meadow ;
 Heard, as he drew near the door, the musical voice of Priscilla
 Singing the hundredth Psalm, the grand old Puritan anthem,
 Music that Luther sang to the sacred words of the Psalmist,
 Full of the breath of the Lord, consoling and comforting many.
 Then, as he opened the door, he beheld the form of the maiden
 Seated beside her wheel, and the carded wool like a snow-drift
 Piled at her knee, her white hands feeding the ravenous spindle,
 While with her foot on the treadle she guided the wheel in its motion
 Open wide on her lap lay the well-worn psalm-book of Ainsworth,
 Printed in Amsterdam, the words and the music together,
 Rough-hewn, angular notes, like stones in the wall of a churchyard,
 Darkened and overhung by the running vine of the verses.
 Such was the book from whose pages she sang the old Puritan anthem,
 She, the Puritan girl, in the solitude of the forest,
 Making the humble house and the modest apparel of homespun
 Beautiful with her beauty, and rich with the wealth of her being !
 Over him rushed, like a wind that is keen and cold and relentless,
 Thoughts of what might have been, and the weight and woe of his errand ;
 All the dreams that had faded, and all the hopes that had vanished,
 All his life henceforth a dreary and tenantless mansion,
 Haunted by vain regrets, and pallid, sorrowful faces.
 Still he said to himself, and almost fiercely he said it,
 " Let not him that putteth his hand to the plough look backwards ;
 Though the ploughshare cut through the flowers of life to its fountains,

220

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240

Though it pass o'er the graves of the dead and the hearths of the living,
It is the will of the Lord; and his mercy endureth forever!"

So he entered the house: and the hum of the wheel and the singing
Suddenly ceased; for Priscilla, aroused by his step on the threshold, 250
Rose as he entered, and gave him her hand, in signal of welcome,
Saying, "I knew it was you, when I heard your step in the passage;
For I was thinking of you, as I sat there singing and spinning."
Awkward and dumb with delight, that a thought of him had been mingled
Thus in the sacred psalm, that came from the heart of the maiden,
Silent before her he stood, and gave her the flowers for an answer,
Finding no words for his thought. He remembered that day in the winter,
After the first great snow, when he broke a path from the village,
Reeling and plunging along through the drifts that encumbered the doorway,
Stamping the snow from his feet as he entered the house, and Priscilla 260
Laughed at his snowy locks, and gave him a seat by the fireside,
Grateful and pleased to know he had thought of her in the snow-storm.
Had he but spoken then! perhaps not in vain had he spoken;
Now it was all too late; the golden moment had vanished!
So he stood there abashed, and gave her the flowers for an answer.

Then they sat down and talked of the birds and the beautiful Spring-time,
Talked of their friends at home, and the Mayflower that sailed on the morrow.
"I have been thinking all day," said gently the Puritan maiden,
"Dreaming all night, and thinking all day, of the hedge-rows of England,
They are in blossom now, and the country is all like a garden: 270
Thinking of lanes and fields, and the song of the lark and the linnet,
Seeing the village street, and familiar faces of neighbors
Going about as of old, and stopping to gossip together,
And, at the end of the street, the village church, with the ivy
Climbing the old gray tower, and the quiet graves in the churchyard.
Kind are the people I live with, and dear to me my religion;
Still my heart is so sad, that I wish myself back in Old England.
You will say it is wrong, but I cannot help it: I almost
Wish myself back in Old England, I feel so lonely and wretched."

Thereupon answered the youth: "Indeed I do not condemn you; 280
Stouter hearts than a woman's have quailed in this terrible winter.
Yours is tender and trusting, and needs a stronger to lean on;
So I have come to you now, with an offer and proffer of marriage
Made by a good man and true, Miles Standish the Captain of Plymouth!"

Thus he delivered his message, the dexterous writer of letters, —
Did not embellish the theme, nor array it in beautiful phrases,
But came straight to the point, and blurted it out like a school-boy;
Even the Captain himself could hardly have said it more bluntly.
Mute with amazement and sorrow, Priscilla the Puritan maiden
Looked into Alden's face, her eyes dilated with wonder, 290
Feeling his words like a blow, that stunned her and rendered her speechless;
Till at length she exclaimed, interrupting the ominous silence:

"If the great Captain of Plymouth is so very eager to wed me,
Why does he not come himself, and take the trouble to woo me?
If I am not worth the wooing, I surely am not worth the winning!"
Then John Alden began explaining and smoothing the matter,
Making it worse as he went, by saying the Captain was busy, —
Had no time for such things — such things! the words grating harshly
Fell on the ear of Priscilla; and swift as a flash she made answer:
"Has he no time for such things, as you call it, before he is married, 300
Would he be likely to find it, or make it, after the wedding?
That is the way with you men; you don't understand us, you cannot.
When you have made up your minds, after thinking of this one and that one,
Choosing, selecting, rejecting, comparing one with another,
Then you make known your desire, with abrupt and sudden avowal,
And are offended and hurt, and indignant perhaps, that a woman
Does not respond at once to a love that she never suspected,

"Why does he not come himself, and take the trouble to woo me?"

Does not attain at a bound the height to which you have been climbing.
 This is not right nor just for surely a woman's affection
 Is not a thing to be asked for, and had for only the asking. 310
 When one is truly in love, one not only says it, but shows it.
 Had he but waited awhile, had he only showed that he loved me,
 Even this Captain of yours — who knows ? — at last might have won me,
 Old and rough as he is; but now it never can happen."

Still John Alden went on, unheeding the words of Priscilla,
 Urging the suit of his friend, explaining, persuading, expanding ;
 Spoke of his courage and skill, and of all his battles in Flanders,
 How with the people of God he had chosen to suffer affliction ;
 How, in return for his zeal, they had made him Captain of Plymouth ;
 He was a gentleman born, could trace his pedigree plainly 320
 Back to Hugh Standish of Duxbury Hall, in Lancashire, England,
 Who was the son of Ralph, and the grandson of Thurston de Standish ;
 Heir unto vast estates, of which he was basely defrauded,
 Still bore the family arms, and had for his crest a cock argent,
 Combed and wattled gules, and all the rest of the blazon.
 He was a man of honor, of noble and generous nature ;
 Though he was rough, he was kindly ; she knew how during the winter
 He had attended the sick, with a hand as gentle as woman's ;
 Somewhat hasty and hot, he could not deny it, and headstrong,
 Stern as a soldier might be, but hearty, and placable always, 330
 Not to be laughed at and scorned, because he was little of stature ;
 For he was great of heart, magnanimous, courtly, courageous ;
 Any woman in Plymouth, nay, any woman in England,
 Might be happy and proud to be called the wife of Miles Standish !

But as he warmed and glowed, in his simple and eloquent language,
 Quite forgetful of self, and full of the praise of his rival,
 Archly the maiden smiled, and, with eyes overrunning with laughter,
 Said, in a tremulous voice, " Why don't you speak for yourself, John ? "

IV

JOHN ALDEN

INTO the open air John Alden, perplexed and bewildered,
 Rushed like a man insane, and wandered alone by the sea-side ; 340
 Paced up and down the sands, and bared his head to the east-wind,
 Cooling his heated brow, and the fire and fever within him.
 Slowly as out of the heavens, with apocalyptical splendors,
 Sank the City of God, in the vision of John the Apostle,
 So, with its cloudy walls of chrysolite, jasper, and sapphire,
 Sank the broad red sun, and over its turrets uplifted
 Glimmered the golden reed of the angel who measured the city.

" Welcome, O wind of the East ! " he exclaimed in his wild exultation,
 " Welcome, O wind of the East, from the caves of the misty Atlantic !
 Blowing o'er fields of dulse, and measureless meadows of sea-grass, 350

Blowing o'er rocky wastes, and the grottoes and gardens of ocean !
Lay thy cold, moist hand on my burning forehead, and wrap me
Close in thy garments of mist, to allay the fever within me !”

Like an awakened conscience, the sea was moaning and tossing,
Beating remorseful and loud the mutable sands of the sea-shore.
Fierce in his soul was the struggle and tumult of passions contending;
Love triumphant and crowned, and friendship wounded and bleeding,
Passionate cries of desire, and importunate pleadings of duty !
“ Is it my fault,” he said, “ that the maiden has chosen between us ?
Is it my fault that he failed, — my fault that I am the victor ?” 36
Then within him there thundered a voice, like the voice of the Prophet:
“ It hath displeased the Lord !” — and he thought of David's transgression,
Bathsheba's beautiful face, and his friend in the front of the battle !
Shame and confusion of guilt, and abasement and self-condemnation,
Overwhelmed him at once ; and he cried in the deepest contrition :
“ It hath displeased the Lord ! It is the temptation of Satan !”

Then, uplifting his head, he looked at the sea, and beheld there
Dimly the shadowy form of the Mayflower riding at anchor,
Rocked on the rising tide, and ready to sail on the morrow ;
Heard the voices of men through the mist, the rattle of cordage 37
Thrown on the deck, the shouts of the mate, and the sailors' “ Ay, ay, Sir !”
Clear and distinct, but not loud, in the dripping air of the twilight.
Still for a moment he stood, and listened, and stared at the vessel,
Then went hurriedly on, as one who, seeing a phantom,
Stops, then quickens his pace, and follows the beckoning shadow.
“ Yes, it is plain to me now,” he murmured ; “ the hand of the Lord is
Leading me out of the land of darkness, the bondage of error,
Through the sea, that shall lift the walls of its waters around me,
Hiding me, cutting me off, from the cruel thoughts that pursue me.
Back will I go o'er the ocean, this dreary land will abandon, 38
Her whom I may not love, and him whom my heart has offended.
Better to be in my grave in the green old churchyard in England,
Close by my mother's side, and among the dust of my kindred ;
Better be dead and forgotten, than living in shame and dishonor ;
Sacred and safe and unseen, in the dark of the narrow chamber
With me my secret shal' lie, like a buried jewel that glimmers
Bright on the hand that is dust, in the chambers of silence and darkness, —
Yes, as the marriage ring of the great espousal hereafter !”

Thus, as he spake, he turned, in the strength of his strong resolution,
Leaving behind him the shore, and hurried along in the twilight, 39
Through the congenial gloom of the forest silent and sombre,
Till he beheld the lights in the seven houses of Plymouth,
Shining like seven stars in the dusk and mist of the evening.
Soon he entered his door, and found the redoubtable Captain
Sitting alone, and absorbed in the martial pages of Cæsar,
Fighting some great campaign in Hainault or Brabant or Flanders.
“ Long have you been on your errand,” he said with a cheery demeanor,

Even as one who is waiting an answer, and fears not the issue.
"Not far off is the house, although the woods are between us ;
But you have lingered so long, that while you were going and coming 400
I have fought ten battles and sacked and demolished a city.
Come, sit down, and in order relate to me all that has happened."

Then John Alden spake, and related the wondrous adventure,
From beginning to end, minutely, just as it happened ;
How he had seen Priscilla, and how he had sped in his courtship,
Only smoothing a little, and softening down her refusal.
But when he came at length to the words Priscilla had spoken,
Words so tender and cruel: "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?"
Up leaped the Captain of Plymouth, and stamped on the floor, till his armor
Clanged on the wall, where it hung, with a sound of sinister omen. 410
All his pent-up wrath burst forth in a sudden explosion,
E'en as a hand-grenade, that scatters destruction around it.
Wildly he shouted, and loud: "John Alden! you have betrayed me!
Me, Miles Standish, your friend! have supplanted, defrauded, betrayed me!
One of my ancestors ran his sword through the heart of Wat Tyler ;
Who shall prevent me from running my own through the heart of a traitor?
Yours is the greater treason, for yours is a treason to friendship!
You, who lived under my roof, whom I cherished and loved as a brother ;
You, who have fed at my board, and drunk at my cup, to whose keeping
I have intrusted my honor, my thoughts the most sacred and secret, — 420
You too, Brutus! ah woe to the name of friendship hereafter!
Brutus was Cæsar's friend, and you were mine, but henceforward
Let there be nothing between us save war, and implacable hatred!"

So spake the Captain of Plymouth, and strode about in the chamber,
Chafing and choking with rage ; like cords were the veins on his temples.
But in the midst of his anger a man appeared at the doorway,
Bringing in uttermost haste a message of urgent importance,
Rumors of danger and war and hostile incursions of Indians!
Straightway the Captain paused, and, without further question or parley.
Took from the nail on the wall his sword with its scabbard of iron, 430
Buckled the belt round his waist, and, frowning fiercely, departed.
Alden was left alone. He heard the clank of the scabbard
Growing fainter and fainter, and dying away in the distance.
Then he arose from his seat, and looked forth into the darkness,
Felt the cool air blow on his cheek, that was hot with the insult,
Lifted his eyes to the heavens, and, folding his hands as in childhood,
Prayed in the silence of night to the Father who seeth in secret.

Meanwhile, the choleric Captain strode wrathful away to the council,
Found it already assembled, impatiently waiting his coming ;
Men in the middle of life, austere and grave in deportment, 440
Only one of them old, the hill that was nearest to heaven,
Covered with snow, but erect, the excellent Elder of Plymouth.
God had sifted three kingdoms to find the wheat for this planting,
Then had sifted the wheat, as the living seed of a nation ;

So say the chronicles old, and such is the faith of the people!
 Near them was standing an Indian, in attitude stern and defiant,
 Naked down to the waist, and grim and ferocious in aspect;
 While on the table before them was lying unopened a Bible,
 Ponderous, bound in leather, brass-studded, printed in Holland,
 And beside it outstretched the skin of a rattlesnake glittered, 450
 Filled, like a quiver, with arrows; a signal and challenge of warfare,
 Brought by the Indian, and speaking with arrowy tongues of defiance.
 This Miles Standish beheld, as he entered, and heard them debating
 What were an answer befitting the hostile message and menace,
 Talking of this and of that, contriving, suggesting, objecting;
 One voice only for peace, and that the voice of the Elder,
 Judging it wise and well that some at least were converted,
 Rather than any were slain, for this was but Christian behavior!
 Then out spake Miles Standish, the stalwart Captain of Plymouth,
 Muttering deep in his throat, for his voice was husky with anger, 460
 "What! do you mean to make war with milk and the water of roses?
 Is it to shoot red squirrels you have your howitzer planted
 There on the roof of the church, or is it to shoot red devils?
 Truly the only tongue that is understood by a savage
 Must be the tongue of fire that speaks from the mouth of the cannon!"
 Thereupon answered and said the excellent Elder of Plymouth,
 Somewhat amazed and alarmed at this irreverent language;
 "Not so thought St. Paul, nor yet the other Apostles;
 Not from the cannon's mouth were the tongues of fire they spake with!"
 But unheeded fell this mild rebuke on the Captain, 470
 Who had advanced to the table, and thus continued discoursing:
 "Leave this matter to me, for to me by right it pertaineth.
 War is a terrible trade; but in the cause that is righteous,
 Sweet is the smell of powder; and thus I answer the challenge!"

Then from the rattlesnake's skin, with a sudden, contemptuous gesture,
 Jerking the Indian arrows, he filled it with powder and bullets
 Full to the very jaws, and handed it back to the savage,
 Saying, in thundering tones: "Here, take it! this is your answer!"
 Silently out of the room then glided the glistening savage,
 Bearing the serpent's skin, and seeming himself like a serpent, 480
 Winding his sinuous way in the dark to the depths of the forest.

V

THE SAILING OF THE MAYFLOWER

JUST in the gray of the dawn, as the mists uprose from the meadows,
 There was a stir and a sound in the slumbering village of Plymouth;
 Clanging and clicking of arms, and the order imperative, "Forward!"
 Given in tone suppressed, a tramp of feet, and then silence.
 Figures ten, in the mist, marched slowly out of the village.
 Standish the stalwart it was, with eight of his valorous army,
 Led by their Indian guide, by Hobomok, friend of the white men,

Northward marching to quell the sudden revolt of the savage.
Giants they seemed in the mist, or the mighty men of King David ;
Giants in heart they were, who believed in God and the Bible, —
Ay, who believed in the smiting of Midianites and Philistines.
Over them gleamed far off the crimson banners of morning ;
Under them, loud on the sands, the serried billows, advancing,
Fired along the line, and in regular order retreated.

490

Many a mile had they marched, when at length the village of Plymouth
Woke from its sleep, and arose, intent on its manifold labors.
Sweet was the air and soft ; and slowly the smoke from the chimneys

“ Sweet is the smell of powder ; and thus I answer the challenge ! ”

Rose over roofs of thatch, and pointed steadily eastward ;
Men came forth from the doors, and paused and talked of the weather,
Said that the wind had changed, and was blowing fair for the Mayflower ,
Talked of their Captain's departure, and all the dangers that menaced,
He being gone, the town, and what should be done in his absence.
Merrily sang the birds, and the tender voices of women
Consecrated with hymns the common cares of the household.
Out of the sea rose the sun, and the billows rejoiced at his coming ;
Beautiful were his feet on the purple tops of the mountains ;
Beautiful on the sails of the Mayflower riding at anchor,
Battered and blackened and worn by all the storms of the winter.
Loosely against her masts was hanging and flapping her canvas,
Rent by so many gales, and patched by the hands of the sailors.

500

510

Suddenly from her side, as the sun rose over the ocean,
Darted a puff of smoke, and floated seaward ; anon rang
Loud over field and forest the cannon's roar, and the echoes
Heard and repeated the sound, the signal-gun of departure !
Ah ! but with louder echoes replied the hearts of the people !
Meekly, in voices subdued, the chapter was read from the Bible,
Meekly the prayer was begun, but ended in fervent entreaty !
Then from their houses in haste came forth the Pilgrims of Plymouth,
Men and women and children, all hurrying down to the sea-shore,
Eager, with tearful eyes, to say farewell to the Mayflower,
Homeward bound o'er the sea, and leaving them here in the desert.

520

Foremost among them was Alden. All night he had lain without slumber,
Turning and tossing about in the heat and unrest of his fever.
He had beheld Miles Standish, who came back late from the council,
Stalking into the room, and heard him mutter and murmur ;
Sometimes it seemed a prayer, and sometimes it sounded like swearing.
Once he had come to the bed, and stood there a moment in silence ;
Then he had turned away, and said : " I will not awake him ;
Let him sleep on, it is best ; for what is the use of more talking ! "
Then he extinguished the light, and threw himself down on his pallet,
Dressed as he was, and ready to start at the break of the morning, —
Covered himself with the cloak he had worn in his campaigns in Flanders, —
Slept as a soldier sleeps in his bivouac, ready for action.
But with the dawn he arose ; in the twilight Alden beheld him
Put on his corselet of steel, and all the rest of his armor,
Buckle about his waist his trusty blade of Damascus,
Take from the corner his musket, and so stride out of the chamber.
Often the heart of the youth had burned and yearned to embrace him,
Often his lips had essayed to speak, imploring for pardon ;
All the old friendship came back, with its tender and grateful emotions ;
But his pride overmastered the nobler nature within him, —
Pride, and the sense of his wrong, and the burning fire of the insult.
So he beheld his friend departing in anger, but spake not,
Saw him go forth to danger, perhaps to death, and he spake not !
Then he arose from his bed, and heard what the people were saying,
Joined in the talk at the door, with Stephen and Richard and Gilbert,
Joined in the morning prayer, and in the reading of Scripture,
And, with the others, in haste went hurrying down to the sea-shore,
Down to the Plymouth Rock, that had been to their feet as a doorstep
Into a world unknown, — the corner-stone of a nation !

530

540

550

There with his boat was the Master, already a little impatient
Lest he should lose the tide, or the wind might shift to the eastward,
Square-built, hearty, and strong, with an odor of ocean about him,
Speaking with this one and that, and cramming letters and parcels
Into his pockets capacious, and messages mingled together
Into his narrow brain, till at last he was wholly bewildered.
Nearer the boat stood Alden, with one foot placed on the gunwale,
One still firm on the rock, and talking at times with the sailors,

Seated erect on the thwarts, all ready and eager for starting. 560
He too was eager to go, and thus put an end to his anguish,
Thinking to fly from despair, that swifter than keel is or canvas,
Thinking to drown in the sea the ghost that would rise and pursue him.
But as he gazed on the crowd, he beheld the form of Priscilla
Standing dejected among them, unconscious of all that was passing.
Fixed were her eyes upon his, as if she divined his intention,
Fixed with a look so sad, so reproachful, imploring, and patient,
That with a sudden revulsion his heart recoiled from its purpose,
As from the verge of a crag, where one step more is destruction.
Strange is the heart of man, with its quick, mysterious instincts! 570
Strange is the life of man, and fatal or fated are moments,
Whereupon turn, as on hinges, the gates of the wall adamantine!

"The echoes

Heard and repeated the sound, the signal-gun of departure!"

"Here I remain!" he exclaimed, as he looked at the heavens above him,
Thanking the Lord whose breath had scattered the mist and the madness,
Wherein, blind and lost, to death he was staggering headlong.
"Yonder snow-white cloud, that floats in the ether above me,
Seems like a hand that is pointing and beckoning over the ocean

There is another hand, that is not so spectral and ghost-like,
 Holding me, drawing me back, and clasping mine for protection.
 Float, O hand of cloud, and vanish away in the ether!
 Roll thyself up like a fist, to threaten and daunt me ; I heed not
 Either your warning or menace, or any omen of evil!
 There is no land so sacred, no air so pure and so wholesome,
 As is the air she breathes, and the soil that is pressed by her footsteps.
 Here for her sake will I stay, and like an invisible presence
 Hover around her forever, protecting, supporting her weakness;
 Yes ! as my foot was the first that stepped on this rock at the landing,
 So, with the blessing of God, shall it be the last at the leaving!"

580

Meanwhile the Master alert, but with dignified air and important,
 Scanning with watchful eye the tide and the wind and the weather,
 Walked about on the sands, and the people crowded around him
 Saying a few last words, and enforcing his careful remembrance.
 Then, taking each by the hand, as if he were grasping a tiller,
 Into the boat he sprang, and in haste shoved off to his vessel,
 Glad in his heart to get rid of all this worry and flurry,
 Glad to be gone from a land of sand and sickness and sorrow,
 Short allowance of victual, and plenty of nothing but Gospel!
 Lost in the sound of the oars was the last farewell of the Pilgrims.
 O strong hearts and true ! not one went back in the Mayflower!
 No, not one looked back, who had set his hand to this ploughing!

590

600

Soon were heard on board the shouts and songs of the sailors
 Heaving the windlass round, and hoisting the ponderous anchor.
 Then the yards were braced, and all sails set to the west-wind,
 Blowing steady and strong ; and the Mayflower sailed from the harbor,
 Rounded the point of the Gurnet, and leaving far to the southward
 Island and cape of sand, and the Field of the First Encounter,
 Took the wind on her quarter, and stood for the open Atlantic,
 Borne on the send of the sea, and the swelling hearts of the Pilgrims.

Long in silence they watched the receding sail of the vessel,
 Much endeared to them all, as something living and human ;
 Then, as if filled with the spirit, and rapt in a vision prophetic,
 Baring his hoary head, the excellent Elder of Plymouth
 Said, " Let us pray ! " and they prayed, and thanked the Lord and took cour-
 age.

610

Mournfully sobbed the waves at the base of the rock, and above them
 Bowed and whispered the wheat on the hill of death, and their kindred
 Seemed to awake in their graves, and to join in the prayer that they uttered.
 Sun-illumined and white, on the eastern verge of the ocean
 Gleamed the departing sail, like a marble slab in a graveyard ;
 Buried beneath it lay forever all hope of escaping.
 Lo ! as they turned to depart, they saw the form of an Indian.
 Watching them from the hill ; but while they spake with each other,
 Pointing with outstretched hands, and saying, " Look ! " he had vanished.
 So they returned to their homes ; but Alden lingered a little,

620

Musing alone on the shore, and watching the wash of the billows
Round the base of the rock, and the sparkle and flash of the sunshine,
Like the spirit of God, moving visibly over the waters.

VI

PRISCILLA

THUS for a while he stood, and mused by the shore of the ocean,
Thinking of many things, and most of all of Priscilla ;
And as if thought had the power to draw to itself, like the loadstone,
Whatsoever it touches, by subtile laws of its nature,
Lo! as he turned to depart, Priscilla was standing beside him.

630

“ Are you so much offended, you will not speak to me ? ” said she.
“ Am I so much to blame, that yesterday, when you were pleading
Warmly the cause of another, my heart, impulsive and wayward,
Pleaded your own, and spake out, forgetful perhaps of decorum?
Certainly you can forgive me for speaking so frankly, for saying
What I ought not to have said, yet now I can never unsay it;
For there are moments in life, when the heart is so full of emotion,
That if by chance it be shaken, or into its depths like a pebble
Drops some careless word, it overflows, and its secret,
Spilt on the ground like water, can never be gathered together.
Yesterday I was shocked, when I heard you speak of Miles Standish,
Praising his virtues, transforming his very defects into virtues,
Praising his courage and strength, and even his fighting in Flanders,
As if by fighting alone you could win the heart of a woman,
Quite overlooking yourself and the rest, in exalting your hero.
Therefore I spake as I did, by an irresistible impulse.
You will forgive me, I hope, for the sake of the friendship between us,
Which is too true and too sacred to be so easily broken ! ”
Thereupon answered John Alden, the scholar, the friend of Miles Standish : 650
“ I was not angry with you, with myself alone I was angry,
Seeing how badly I managed the matter I had in my keeping.”
“ No ! ” interrupted the maiden, with answer prompt and decisive;
“ No ; you were angry with me, for speaking so frankly and freely.
It was wrong, I acknowledge ; for it is the fate of a woman
Long to be patient and silent, to wait like a ghost that is speechless,
Till some questioning voice dissolves the spell of its silence.
Hence is the inner life of so many suffering women
Sunless and silent and deep, like subterranean rivers
Running through caverns of darkness, unheard, unseen, and unfruitful,
Chafing their channels of stone, with endless and profitless murmurs.” 660
Thereupon answered John Alden, the young man, the lover of women :
“ Heaven forbid it, Priscilla ; and truly they seem to me always
More like the beautiful rivers that watered the garden of Eden,
More like the river Euphrates, through deserts of Havilah flowing,
Filling the land with delight, and memories sweet of the garden ! ”
“ Ah, by these words, I can see,” again interrupted the maiden,

"How very little you prize me, or care for what I am saying.
 When from the depths of my heart, in pain and with secret misgiving,
 Frankly I speak to you, asking for sympathy only and kindness, 670
 Straightway you take up my words, that are plain and direct and in earnest,
 Turn them away from their meaning, and answer with flattering phrases.
 This is not right, is not just, is not true to the best that is in you ;
 For I know and esteem you, and feel that your nature is noble,
 Lifting mine up to a higher, a more ethereal level.
 Therefore I value your friendship, and feel it perhaps the more keenly
 If you say aught that implies I am only as one among many,
 If you make use of those common and complimentary phrases
 Most men think so fine, in dealing and speaking with women,
 But which women reject as insipid, if not as insulting." 680

Mute and amazed was Alden ; and listened and looked at Priscilla,
 Thinking he never had seen her more fair, more divine in her beauty.
 He who but yesterday pleaded so glibly the cause of another,
 Stood there embarrassed and silent, and seeking in vain for an answer.
 So the maiden went on, and little divined or imagined
 What was at work in his heart, that made him so awkward and speechless.
 "Let us, then, be what we are, and speak what we think, and in all things
 Keep ourselves loyal to truth, and the sacred professions of friendship.
 It is no secret I tell you, nor am I ashamed to declare it:
 I have liked to be with you, to see you, to speak with you always. 690
 So I was hurt at your words, and a little affronted to hear you
 Urge me to marry your friend, though he were the Captain Miles Standish.
 For I must tell you the truth : much more to me is your friendship
 Than all the love he could give, were he twice the hero you think him."
 Then she extended her hand, and Alden, who eagerly grasped it,
 Felt all the wounds in his heart, that were aching and bleeding so sorely,
 Healed by the touch of that hand, and he said, with a voice full of feeling:
 "Yes, we must ever be friends ; and of all who offer you friendship
 Let me be ever the first, the truest, the nearest and dearest!"

Casting a farewell look at the glimmering sail of the Mayflower, 700
 Distant, but still in sight, and sinking below the horizon,
 Homeward together they walked, with a strange, indefinite feeling,
 That all the rest had departed and left them alone in the desert.
 But, as they went through the fields in the blessing and smile of the sun-
 shine,
 Lighter grew their hearts, and Priscilla said very archly:
 "Now that our terrible Captain has gone in pursuit of the Indians,
 Where he is happier far than he would be commanding a household,
 You may speak boldly, and tell me of all that happened between you,
 When you returned last night, and said how ungrateful you found me."
 Thereupon answered John Alden, and told her the whole of the story, — 710
 Told her his own despair, and the direful wrath of Miles Standish.
 Whereat the maiden smiled, and said between laughing and earnest,
 "He is a little chimney, and heated hot in a moment !"
 But as he gently rebuked her, and told her how he had suffered, —

How he had even determined to sail that day in the Mayflower,
And had remained for her sake, on hearing the dangers that threatened, —
All her manner was changed, and she said with a faltering accent,
“ Truly I thank you for this: how good you have been to me always! ”

Thus, as a pilgrim devout, who toward Jerusalem journeys,
Taking three steps in advance, and one reluctantly backward, 720
Urged by importunate zeal, and withheld by pangs of contrition;
Slowly but steadily onward, receding yet ever advancing,
Journeyed this Puritan youth to the Holy Land of his longings,
Urged by the fervor of love, and withheld by remorseful misgivings.

VII

THE MARCH OF MILES STANDISH

MEANWHILE the stalwart Miles Standish was marching steadily northward,
Winding through forest and swamp, and along the trend of the sea-shore,
All day long, with hardly a halt, the fire of his anger
Burning and crackling within, and the sulphurous odor of powder
Seeming more sweet to his nostrils than all the scents of the forest.
Silent and moody he went, and much he revolved his discomfort; 730
He who was used to success, and to easy victories always,
Thus to be flouted, rejected, and laughed to scorn by a maiden,
Thus to be mocked and betrayed by the friend whom most he had trusted!
Ah! 't was too much to be borne, and he fretted and chafed in his armor!

“ I alone am to blame,” he muttered, “ for mine was the folly.
What has a rough old soldier, grown grim and gray in the harness,
Used to the camp and its way, to do with the wooing of maidens?
'T was but a dream, — let it pass, — let it vanish like so many others!
What I thought was a flower is only a weed, and is worthless;
Out of my heart will I pluck it, and throw it away, and henceforward 740
Be but a fighter of battles, a lover and wooer of dangers! ”
Thus he revolved in his mind his sorry defeat and discomfort,
While he was marching by day or lying at night in the forest,
Looking up at the trees, and the constellations beyond them.

After a three days' march he came to an Indian encampment
Pitched on the edge of a meadow, between the sea and the forest;
Women at work by the tents, and warriors, horrid with war-paint,
Seated about a fire, and smoking and talking together;
Who, when they saw from afar the sudden approach of the white men,
Saw the flash of the sun on breastplate and sabre and musket, 750
Straightway leaped to their feet, and two, from among them advancing,
Came to parley with Standish, and offer him furs as a present;
Friendship was in their looks, but in their hearts there was hatred.
Braves of the tribe were these, and brothers, gigantic in stature,
Huge as Goliath of Gath, or the terrible Og, king of Bashan;
One was Pecksuot named, and the other was called Wattawamat.

Round their necks were suspended their knives in scabbards of wampum,
Two-edged, trenchant knives, with points as sharp as a needle.

Other arms had they none, for they were cunning and crafty.

"Welcome, English!" they said, — these words they had learned from the
traders

760

Touching at times on the coast, to barter and chaffer for peltries.

Then in their native tongue they began to parley with Standish,

Through his guide and interpreter. Hobomok, friend of the white man,

"Held it aloft and displayed a woman's face on the handle"

Begging for blankets and knives, but mostly for muskets and powder,
Kept by the white man, they said, concealed, with the plague, in his cellars,
Ready to be let loose, and destroy his brother the red man!

But when Standish refused, and said he would give them the Bible,

Suddenly changing their tone, they began to boast and to bluster.

Then Wattawamat advanced with a stride in front of the other,

And, with a lofty demeanor, thus vauntingly spake to the Captain:

770

"Now Wattawamat can see, by the fiery eyes of the Captain,

Angry is he in his heart; but the heart of the brave Wattawamat

Is not afraid at the sight. He was not born of a woman,

But on a mountain at night, from an oak-tree riven by lightning,

Forth he sprang at a bound, with all his weapons about him,

Shouting, 'Who is there here to fight with the brave Wattawamat?'

Then he unsheathed his knife, and, whetting the blade on his left hand,

Held it aloft and displayed a woman's face on the handle;

Saying, with bitter expression and look of sinister meaning:

"I have another at home, with the face of a man on the handle ;
By and by they shall marry ; and there will be plenty of children ! " 780

Then stood Pecksuot forth, self-vaunting, insulting Miles Standish :
While with his fingers he patted the knife that hung at his bosom,
Drawing it half from its sheath, and plunging it back, as he muttered,
" By and by it shall see ; it shall eat ; ah, ha ! but shall speak not !
This is the mighty Captain the white men have sent to destroy us !
He is a little man ; let him go and work with the women ! "

Meanwhile Standish had noted the faces and figures of Indians
Peeping and creeping about from bush to tree in the forest,
Feigning to look for game, with arrows set on their bow-strings, 790
Drawing about him still closer and closer the net of their ambush.
But undaunted he stood, and dissembled and treated them smoothly ;
So the old chronicles say, that were writ in the days of the fathers.
But when he heard their defiance, the boast, the taunt, and the insult,
All the hot blood of his race, of Sir Hugh and of Thurston de Standish,
Boiled and beat in his heart, and swelled in the veins of his temples.
Headlong he leaped on the boaster, and, snatching his knife from its scabbard,
Plunged it into his heart, and, reeling backward, the savage
Fell with his face to the sky, and a fiend-like fierceness upon it.
Straight there arose from the forest the awful sound of the war-whoop. 800
And, like a flurry of snow on the whistling wind of December,
Swift and sudden and keen came a flight of feathery arrows.
Then came a cloud of smoke, and out of the cloud came the lightning,
Out of the lightning thunder ; and death unseen ran before it.
Frightened the savages fled for shelter in swamp and in thicket,
Hotly pursued and beset ; but their Sachem, the brave Wattawamat,
Fled not ; he was dead. Unswerving and swift had a bullet
Passed through his brain, and he fell with both hands clutching the green-
sward,
Seeming in death to hold back from his foe the land of his fathers.

There on the flowers of the meadow the warriors lay, and above them, 810
Silent, with folded arms, stood Hobomok, friend of the white man.
Smiling at length he exclaimed to the stalwart Captain of Plymouth : —
" Pecksuot bragged very loud, of his courage, his strength, and his stature, —
Mocked the great Captain, and called him a little man ; but I see now
Big enough have you been to lay him speechless before you ! "

Thus the first battle was fought and won by the stalwart Miles Standish.
When the tidings thereof were brought to the village of Plymouth,
And as a trophy of war the head of the brave Wattawamat
Scowled from the roof of the fort, which at once was a church and a fortress,
All who beheld it rejoiced, and praised the Lord, and took courage. 820
Only Priscilla averted her face from this spectre of terror,
Thanking God in her heart that she had not married Miles Standish ;
Shrinking, fearing almost, lest, coming home from his battles,
He should lay claim to her hand, as the prize and reward of his valor.

VIII

THE SPINNING-WHEEL

MONTH after month passed away, and in Autumn the ships of the merchants
 Came with kindred and friends, with cattle and corn for the Pilgrims.
 All in the village was peace; the men were intent on their labors,
 Busy with hewing and building, with garden-plot and with merestead,
 Busy with breaking the glebe, and mowing the grass in the meadows,
 Searching the sea for its fish, and hunting the deer in the forest. 83c
 All in the village was peace; but at times the rumor of warfare
 Filled the air with alarm, and the apprehension of danger.
 Bravely the stalwart Standish was scouring the land with his forces,
 Waxing valiant in fight and defeating the alien armies,
 Till his name had become a sound of fear to the nations.
 Anger was still in his heart, but at times the remorse and contrition
 Which in all noble natures succeed the passionate outbreak,
 Came like a rising tide, that encounters the rush of a river,
 Staying its current awhile, but making it bitter and brackish.

Meanwhile Alden at home had built him a new habitation, 84c
 Solid, substantial, of timber rough-hewn from the firs of the forest.
 Wooden-barred was the door, and the roof was covered with rushes;
 Latticed the windows were, and the window-panes were of paper,
 Oiled to admit the light, while wind and rain were excluded.
 There too he dug a well, and around it planted an orchard:
 Still may be seen to this day some trace of the well and the orchard.
 Close to the house was the stall, where, safe and secure from annoyance,
 Raghorn, the snow-white bull, that had fallen to Alden's allotment
 In the division of cattle, might ruminant in the night-time
 Over the pastures he cropped, made fragrant by sweet pennyroyal. 85c

Oft when his labor was finished, with eager feet would the dreamer
 Follow the pathway that ran through the woods to the house of Priscilla.
 Led by illusions romantic and subtle deceptions of fancy,
 Pleasure disguised as duty, and love in the semblance of friendship.
 Ever of her he thought, when he fashioned the walls of his dwelling;
 Ever of her he thought, when he delved in the soil of his garden;
 Ever of her he thought, when he read in his Bible on Sunday
 Praise of the virtuous woman, as she is described in the Proverbs, —
 How the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her always,
 How all the days of her life she will do him good, and not evil, 86c
 How she seeketh the wool and the flax and worketh with gladness,
 How she layeth her hand to the spindle and holdeth the distaff,
 How she is not afraid of the snow for herself or her household,
 Knowing her household are clothed with the scarlet cloth of her weaving !

So as she sat at her wheel one afternoon in the Autumn,
 Alden, who opposite sat, and was watching her dexterous fingers,
 As if the thread she was spinning were that of his life and his fortune,
 After a pause in their talk, thus spake to the sound of the spindle.

"Truly, Priscilla," he said, "when I see you spinning and spinning,
Never idle a moment, but thrifty and thoughtful of others, 870
Suddenly you are transformed, are visibly changed in a moment ;
You are no longer Priscilla, but Bertha the Beautiful Spinner."
Here the light foot on the treadle grew swifter and swifter ; the spindle
Uttered an angry snarl, and the thread snapped short in her fingers ;
While the impetuous speaker, not heeding the mischief, continued :
"You are the beautiful Bertha, the spinner, the queen of Helvetia ;
She whose story I read at a stall in the streets of Southampton,
Who, as she rode on her palfrey, o'er valley and meadow and mountain,
Ever was spinning her thread from a distaff fixed to her saddle.
She was so thrifty and good, that her name passed into a proverb. 880
So shall it be with your own, when the spinning-wheel shall no longer
Hum in the house of the farmer, and fill its chambers with music.
Then shall the mothers, reproving, relate how it was in their childhood,
Praising the good old times, and the days of Priscilla the spinner!"
Straight uprose from her wheel the beautiful Puritan maiden,
Pleased with the praise of her thrift from him whose praise was the sweetest,
Drew from the reel on the table a snowy skein of her spinning,
Thus making answer, meanwhile, to the flattering phrases of Alden :
"Come, you must not be idle ; if I am a pattern for housewives,
Show yourself equally worthy of being the model of husbands. 890
Hold this skein on your hands, while I wind it, ready for knitting ;
Then who knows but hereafter, when fashions have changed and the manners,
Fathers may talk to their sons of the good old times of John Alden !"
Thus, with a jest and a laugh, the skein on his hands she adjusted,
He sitting awkwardly there, with his arms extended before him,
She standing graceful, erect, and winding the thread from his fingers,
Sometimes chiding a little his clumsy manner of holding,
Sometimes touching his hands, as she disentangled expertly
Twist or knot in the yarn, unawares — for how could she help it? —
Sending electrical thrills through every nerve in his body. 900

Lo! in the midst of this scene, a breathless messenger entered,
Bringing in hurry and heat the terrible news from the village.
Yes ; Miles Standish was dead ! — an Indian had brought them the tidings, —
Slain by a poisoned arrow, shot down in the front of the battle,
Into an ambush beguiled, cut off with the whole of his forces ;
All the town would be burned, and all the people be murdered !
Such were the tidings of evil that burst on the hearts of the hearers.
Silent and statue-like stood Priscilla, her face looking backward
Still at the face of the speaker, her arms uplifted in horror ;
But John Alden, upstarting, as if the barb of the arrow 910
Piercing the heart of his friend had struck his own, and had sundered
Once and forever the bonds that held him bound as a captive,
Wild with excess of sensation, the awful delight of his freedom,
Mingled with pain and regret, unconscious of what he was doing,
Clasped, almost with a groan, the motionless form of Priscilla,
Pressing her close to his heart, as forever his own, and exclaiming :
"Those whom the Lord hath united, let no man put them asunder !"

Even as rivulets twain, from distant and separate sources,
 Seeing each other afar, as they leap from the rocks, and pursuing
 Each one its devious path, but drawing nearer and nearer,
 Rush together at last, at their trysting-place in the forest;
 So these lives that had run thus far in separate channels,
 Coming in sight of each other, then swerving and flowing asunder,
 Parted by barriers strong, but drawing nearer and nearer,
 Rushed together at last, and one was lost in the other.

920

IX

THE WEDDING-DAY

FORTH from the curtain of clouds, from the tent of purple and scarlet,
 Issued the sun, the great High-Priest, in his garments resplendent,
 Holiness unto the Lord, in letters of light, on his forehead,
 Round the hem of his robe the golden bells and pomegranates.
 Blessing the world he came, and the bars of vapor beneath him
 Gleamed like a grate of brass, and the sea at his feet was a laver!

930

This was the wedding morn of Priscilla the Puritan maiden.
 Friends were assembled together; the Elder and Magistrate also
 Graced the scene with their presence, and stood like the Law and the Gospel,
 One with the sanction of earth and one with the blessing of heaven.
 Simple and brief was the wedding, as that of Ruth and of Boaz.
 Softly the youth and the maiden repeated the words of betrothal,
 Taking each other for husband and wife in the Magistrate's presence,
 After the Puritan way, and the laudable custom of Holland.
 Fervently then, and devoutly, the excellent Elder of Plymouth
 Prayed for the hearth and the home, that were founded that day in affec-
 tion,
 Speaking of life and of death, and imploring Divine benedictions.

940

Lo! when the service was ended, a form appeared on the threshold,
 Clad in armor of steel, a sombre and sorrowful figure!
 Why does the bridegroom start and stare at the strange apparition?
 Why does the bride turn pale, and hide her face on his shoulder?
 Is it a phantom of air, — a bodiless, spectral illusion?
 Is it a ghost from the grave, that has come to forbid the betrothal?
 Long had it stood there unseen, a guest uninvited, unwelcomed;
 Over its clouded eyes there had passed at times an expression
 Softening the gloom and revealing the warm heart hidden beneath them,
 As when across the sky the driving rack of the rain-cloud
 Grows for a moment thin, and betrays the sun by its brightness.
 Once it had lifted its hand, and moved its lips, but was silent,
 As if an iron will had mastered the fleeting intention.
 But when were ended the troth and the prayer and the last benediction,
 Into the room it strode, and the people beheld with amazement
 Bodily there in his armor Miles Standish, the Captain of Plymouth!
 Grasping the bridegroom's hand, he said with emotion, "Forgive me!"

950

I have been angry and hurt, — too long have I cherished the feeling ; 96c
I have been cruel and hard, but now, thank God! it is ended.
Mine is the same hot blood that leaped in the veins of Hugh Standish,
Sensitive, swift to resent, but as swift in atoning for error.
Never so much as now was Miles Standish the friend of John Alden.”
Thereupon answered the bridegroom: “ Let all be forgotten between us, —
All save the dear old friendship, and that shall grow older and dearer!”
Then the Captain advanced, and, bowing, saluted Priscilla,

“ Onward the bridal procession now moved to their new habitation ”

Gravely, and after the manner of old-fashioned gentry in England,
Something of camp and of court, of town and of country, commingled,
Wishing her joy of her wedding, and loudly lauding her husband. 97c
Then he said with a smile: “ I should have remembered the adage, —
If you would be well served, you must serve yourself; and moreover,
No man can gather cherries in Kent at the season of Christmas!”

Great was the people's amazement, and greater yet their rejoicing,
Thus to behold once more the sunburnt face of their Captain,
Whom they had mourned as dead; and they gathered and crowded about
him,

Eager to see him and hear him, forgetful of bride and of bridegroom,
Questioning, answering, laughing, and each interrupting the other
Till the good Captain declared, being quite overpowered and bewildered,
He had rather by far break into an Indian encampment, 980
Than come again to a wedding to which he had not been invited.

Meanwhile the bridegroom went forth and stood with the bride at the door-
way,
Breathing the perfumed air of that warm and beautiful morning.
Touched with autumnal tints, but lonely and sad in the sunshine,
Lay extended before them the land of toil and privation;
There were the graves of the dead, and the barren waste of the sea-shore,
There the familiar fields, the groves of pine, and the meadows;
But to their eyes transfigured, it seemed as the Garden of Eden,
Filled with the presence of God, whose voice was the sound of the ocean.

Soon was their vision disturbed by the noise and stir of departure, 990
Friends coming forth from the house, and impatient of longer delaying,
Each with his plan for the day, and the work that was left uncompleted.
Then from a stall near at hand, amid exclamations of wonder,
Alden the thoughtful, the careful, so happy, so proud of Priscilla,
Brought out his snow-white bull, obeying the hand of its master,
Led by a cord that was tied to an iron ring in its nostrils,
Covered with crimson cloth, and a cushion placed for a saddle.
She should not walk, he said, through the dust and heat of the noonday;
Nay, she should ride like a queen, not plod along like a peasant.
Somewhat alarmed at first, but reassured by the others, 1000
Placing her hand on the cushion, her foot in the hand of her husband,
Gayly, with joyous laugh, Priscilla mounted her palfrey.
"Nothing is wanting now," he said with a smile, "but the distaff;
Then you would be in truth my queen, my beautiful Bertha!"

Onward the bridal procession now moved to their new habitation,
Happy husband and wife, and friends conversing together.
Pleasantly murmured the brook, as they crossed the ford in the forest,
Pleased with the image that passed, like a dream of love, through its bosom,
Tremulous, floating in air, o'er the depths of the azure abysses.
Down through the golden leaves the sun was pouring his splendors, 1010
Gleaming on purple grapes, that, from branches above them suspended,
Mingled their odorous breath with the balm of the pine and the fir-tree,
Wild and sweet as the clusters that grew in the valley of Eshcol.
Like a picture it seemed of the primitive, pastoral ages,
Fresh with the youth of the world, and recalling Rebecca and Isaac,
Old and yet ever new, and simple and beautiful always,
Love immortal and young in the endless succession of lovers.
So through the Plymouth woods passed onward the bridal procession.

"Each man's chimney is his Golden Mile-Stone" (See p. 241.)

BIRDS OF PASSAGE

FLIGHT THE FIRST

. . . come i gru van cantando lor lai,
Faccendo in aer di sé lunga riga.

Dante

BIRDS OF PASSAGE

BLACK shadows fall
From the lindens tall,
That lift aloft their massive wall
Against the southern sky;

And from the realms
Of the shadowy elms
A tide-like darkness overwhelms
The fields that round us lie.

But the night is fair,
And everywhere

A warm, soft vapor fills the air;
And distant sounds seem near ;

And above, in the light
Of the star-lit night,
Swift birds of passage wing their
flight
Through the dewy atmosphere.

I hear the beat
Of their pinions fleet,
As from the land of snow and sleet
They seek a southern lea.

I hear the cry
Of their voices high
Falling dreamily through the sky,
But their forms I cannot see.

Oh, say not so !
Those sounds that flow
In murmurs of delight and woe
Come not from wings of birds.

They are the throngs
Of the poet's songs,
Murmurs of pleasures, and pains, and
wrongs,
The sound of wingèd words.

This is the cry
Of souls, that high
On toiling, beating pinions fly,
Seeking a warmer clime.

From their distant flight
Through realms of light
It falls into our world of night,
With the murmuring sound of
rhyme.

PROMETHEUS

OR THE POET'S FORETHOUGHT

OF Prometheus, how undaunted
On Olympus' shining bastions
His audacious foot he planted,
Myths are told and songs are chanted,
Full of promptings and suggestions.

Beautiful is the tradition
Of that flight through heavenly
portals,
The old classic superstition

Of the theft and the transmission
Of the fire of the Immortals! 10

First the deed of noble daring,
Born of heavenward aspiration,
Then the fire with mortals sharing,
Then the vulture, — the despairing
Cry of pain on crags Caucasian.

All is but a symbol painted
Of the Poet, Prophet, Seer ;
Only those are crowned and sainted
Who with grief have been acquainted,
Making nations nobler, freer. 20

In their feverish exultations,
In their triumph and their yearning,
In their passionate pulsations,
In their words among the nations,
The Promethean fire is burning.

Shall it, then, be unavailing,
All this toil for human culture ?
Through the cloud-rack, dark and
trailing,
Must they see above them sailing
O'er life's barren crags the vulture ?

Such a fate as this was Dante's, 31
By defeat and exile maddened ;
Thus were Milton and Cervantes,
Nature's priests and Corybantes,
By affliction touched and saddened.

But the glories so transcendent
That around their memories cluster,
And, on all their steps attendant,
Make their darkened lives resplendent
With such gleams of inward lustre!

All the melodies mysterious, 41
Through the dreary darkness
chanted ;
Thoughts in attitudes imperious,
Voices soft, and deep, and serious,
Words that whispered, songs that
haunted !

All the soul in rapt suspension,
All the quivering, palpitating
Chords of life in utmost tension,
With the fervor of invention,
With the rapture of creating ! 50

Ah, Prometheus ! heaven-scaling !
In such hours of exultation

Even the faintest heart, unquailing,
Might behold the vulture sailing
Round the cloudy crags Caucasian !

Though to all there be not given
Strength for such sublime endeavor,
Thus to scale the walls of heaven,
And to leaven with fiery leaven,
All the hearts of men forever ; 60

Yet all bards, whose hearts unblighted
Honor and believe the presage,
Hold aloft their torches lighted,
Gleaming through the realms be-
nighted,
As they onward bear the message !

EPIMETHEUS

OR THE POET'S AFTERTHOUGHT

HAVE I dreamed ? or was it real,
What I saw as in a vision,
When to marches hymeneal
In the land of the Ideal
Moved my thought o'er Fields Ely-
sian ?

What ! are these the guests whose
glances
Seemed like sunshine gleaming
round me
'These the wild, bewildering fancies,
'That with dithyrambic dances
As with magic circles bound me ? 10

Ah ! how cold are their caresses !
Pallid cheeks, and haggard bosoms !
Spectral gleam their snow - white
dresses,
And from loose dishevelled tresses
Fall the hyacinthine blossoms !

O my songs ! whose winsome mea-
sures
Filled my heart with secret rapture !
Children of my golden leisures !
Must even your delights and pleasures
Fade and perish with the capture ? 20

Fair they seemed, those songs sono-
rous,
When they came to me unbidden ;
Voices single, and in chorus,

Like the wild birds singing o'er us
In the dark of branches hidden.

Disenchantment ! Disillusion !
Must each noble aspiration
Come at last to this conclusion,
Jarring discord, wild confusion,
Lassitude, renunciation ? 30

Not with steeper fall nor faster,
From the sun's serene dominions,
Not through brighter realms nor
vaster,
In swift ruin and disaster,
Icarus fell with shattered pinions !

Sweet Pandora ! dear Pandora !
Why did mighty Jove create thee
Coy as Thetis, fair as Flora,
Beautiful as young Aurora,
If to win thee is to hate thee ? 40

No, not hate thee ! for this feeling
Of unrest and long resistance
Is but passionate appealing,
A prophetic whisper stealing
O'er the chords of our existence.

Him whom thou dost once enamor,
Thou, beloved, never leavest ;
In life's discord, strife, and clamor,
Still he feels thy spell of glamour ;
Him of Hope thou ne'er bereavest. 50

Weary hearts by thee are lifted,
Struggling souls by thee are strength-
ened,
Clouds of fear asunder rifted,
Truth from falsehood cleansed and
sifted,
Lives, like days in summer, length-
ened !

Therefore art thou ever dearer,
O my Sibyl, my deceiver !
For thou makest each mystery clearer,
And the unattained seems nearer,
When thou fillest my heart with
fever ! 60

Muse of all the Gifts and Graces !
Though the fields around us wither,
There are ampler realms and spaces,
Where no foot has left its traces :
Let us turn and wander thither !

THE LADDER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

SAINT AUGUSTINE! well hast thou
said,
That of our vices we can frame
A ladder, if we will but tread
Beneath our feet each deed of shame!

All common things, each day's events,
That with the hour begin and end,
Our pleasures and our discontents,
Are rounds by which we may ascend.

The low desire, the base design,
That makes another's virtues less ; 10
The revel of the ruddy wine,
And all occasions of excess ;

The longing for ignoble things ;
The strife for triumph more than
truth ;
The hardening of the heart, that
brings
Irreverence for the dreams of youth ;

All thoughts of ill ; all evil deeds,
That have their root in thoughts of
ill ;
Whatever hinders or impedes
The action of the nobler will ; — 20

All these must first be trampled down
Beneath our feet, if we would gain
In the bright fields of fair renown
The right of eminent domain.

We have not wings, we cannot soar ;
But we have feet to scale and climb
By slow degrees, by more and more,
The cloudy summits of our time.

The mighty pyramids of stone
That wedge-like cleave the desert
airs, 30
When nearer seen, and better known,
Are but gigantic flights of stairs.

The distant mountains, that uprear
Their solid bastions to the skies,
Are crossed by pathways, that appear
As we to higher levels rise.

The heights by great men reached and
kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,

But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night. 40

Standing on what too long we bore
With shoulders bent and downcast
eyes,
We may discern — unseen before —
A path to higher destinies,

Nor deem the irrevocable Past
As wholly wasted, wholly vain,
If, rising on its wrecks, at last
To something nobler we attain.

THE PHANTOM SHIP

In Mather's Magnalia Christi,
Of the old colonial time,
May be found in prose the legend
That is here set down in rhyme.

A ship sailed from New Haven,
And the keen and frosty airs,
That filled her sails at parting,
Were heavy with good men's prayers.

"O Lord! if it be thy pleasure" —
Thus prayed the old divine — 10
"To bury our friends in the ocean,
Take them, for they are thine!"

But Master Lamberton muttered,
And under his breath said he,
"This ship is so crank and walty,
I fear our grave she will be!"

And the ships that came from Eng-
land,
When the winter months were gone,
Brought no tidings of this vessel
Nor of Master Lamberton. 20

This put the people to praying
That the Lord would let them hear
What in his greater wisdom
He had done with friends so dear.

And at last their prayers were an-
swered :

It was in the month of June,
An hour before the sunset
Of a windy afternoon,

When, steadily steering landward,
A ship was seen below, 30

And they knew it was Lamberton,
Master,
Who sailed so long ago.

On she came, with a cloud of canvas,
Right against the wind that blew,
Until the eye could distinguish
The faces of the crew.

Then fell her straining topmasts,
Hanging tangled in the shrouds,
And her sails were loosened and lifted,
And blown away like clouds. 40

And the masts, with all their rig-
ging,
Fell slowly, one by one,
And the hulk dilated and vanished,
As a sea-mist in the sun!

And the people who saw this marvel
Each said unto his friend,
That this was the mould of their ves-
sel,
And thus her tragic end.

And the pastor of the village
Gave thanks to God in prayer, 50
That, to quiet their troubled spirits,
He had sent this Ship of Air.

THE WARDEN OF THE CINQUE PORTS

A MIST was driving down the British
Channel,
The day was just begun,
And through the window-panes, on
floor and panel,
Streamed the red autumn sun.

It glanced on flowing flag and rippling
pennon,
And the white sails of ships;
And, from the frowning rampart, the
black cannon
Hailed it with feverish lips.

Sandwich and Romney, Hastings,
Hithe, and Dover
Were all alert that day, 10
To see the French war-steamers
speeding over,
When the fog cleared away.

Sullen and silent, and like couchant
lions,

Their cannon, through the night,
Holding their breath, had watched, in
grim defiance,
The sea-coast opposite.

And now they roared at drum-beat
from their stations
On every citadel;
Each answering each, with morning
salutations,
That all was well. 20

And down the coast, all taking up the
burden,
Replied the distant forts,
As if to summon from his sleep the
Warden
And Lord of the Cinque Ports.

Him shall no sunshine from the fields
of azure,
No drum-beat from the wall,
No morning gun from the black fort's
embrasure,
Awaken with its call!

No more, surveying with an eye im-
partial
The long line of the coast, 30
Shall the gaunt figure of the old Field
Marshal
Be seen upon his post!

For in the night, unseen, a single war-
rior,
In sombre harness mailed,
Dreaded of man, and surnamed the
Destroyer,
The rampart wall had scaled.

He passed into the chamber of the
sleeper
The dark and silent room,
And as he entered, darker grew and
deeper
The silence and the gloom. 40

He did not pause to parley or dissem-
ble,
But smote the Warden hoar;
Ah! what a blow! that made all Eng-
land tremble
And groan from shore to shore.

Meanwhile, without, the surly cannon
waited,
The sun rose bright o'erhead ;
Nothing in Nature's aspect intimated
That a great man was dead.

HAUNTED HOUSES

ALL houses wherein men have lived
and died
Are haunted houses. Through the
open doors
The harmless phantoms on their er-
rands glide,
With feet that make no sound upon
the floors.

We meet them at the doorway, on the
stair,
Along the passages they come and
go,
Impalpable impressions on the air,
A sense of something moving to
and fro.

There are more guests at table than
the hosts
Invited ; the illuminated hall
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive
ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall.

The stranger at my fireside cannot see
The forms I see, nor hear the sounds
I hear ;
He but perceives what is ; while unto
me
All that has been is visible and clear.

We have no title-deeds to house or
lands ;
Owners and occupants of earlier
dates
From graves forgotten stretch their
dusty hands,
And hold in mortmain still their old
estates.

The spirit-world around this world of
sense
Floats like an atmosphere, and
everywhere
Wafts through these earthly mists
and vapors dense
A vital breath of more ethereal air.

Our little lives are kept in equipoise
By opposite attractions and desires :
The struggle of the instinct that en-
joys,
And the more noble instinct that
aspires.

These perturbations, this perpetual jar
Of earthly wants and aspirations
high,
Come from the influence of an unseen
star,
An undiscovered planet in our sky.

And as the moon from some dark gate
of cloud
Throws o'er the sea a floating bridge
of light,
Across whose trembling planks our
fancies crowd
Into the realm of mystery and
night, —

So from the world of spirits there de-
scends,
A bridge of light, connecting it with
this,
O'er whose unsteady floor, that sways
and bends,
Wander our thoughts above the dark
abyss.

IN THE CHURCHYARD AT CAM- BRIDGE

In the village churchyard she lies,
Dust is in her beautiful eyes,
No more she breathes, nor feels, nor
stirs ;
At her feet and at her head
Lies a slave to attend the dead,
But their dust is white as hers.

Was she, a lady of high degree,
So much in love with the vanity
And foolish pomp of this world of
ours ?
Or was it Christian charity,
And lowliness and humility,
The richest and rarest of all dowers ?

Who shall tell us ? No one speaks ;
No color shoots into those cheeks,
Either of anger or of pride,
At the rude question we have asked ;

Nor will the mystery be unmasked
By those who are sleeping at her
side.

Hereafter?—And do you think to
look

On the terrible pages of that Book
To find her failings, faults, and er-
rors?

Ah, you will then have other cares,
In your own shortcomings and de-
spairs,

In your own secret sins and ter-
rors!

Thus as to and fro they went
Over upland and through hollow,
Giving their impatience vent,
Perched upon the Emperor's tent,
In her nest, they spied a swallow.

Yes, it was a swallow's nest,
Built of clay and hair of horses,
Mane, or tail, or dragoon's crest,
Found on hedge-rows east and west,
After skirmish of the forces. 20

Then an old Hidalgo said,
As he twirled his gray mustachio,

"In the village churchyard she lies"

THE EMPEROR'S BIRD'S-NEST

ONCE the Emperor Charles of Spain,
With his swarthy, grave command-
ers,

I forget in what campaign,
Long besieged, in mud and rain,
Some old frontier town of Flanders.

Up and down the dreary camp,
In great boots of Spanish leather,
Striding with a measured tramp,
These Hidalgos, dull and damp,
Cursed the Frenchmen, cursed the
weather. 20

"Sure this swallow overhead
Thinks the Emperor's tent a shed,
And the Emperor but a Macho!"

Hearing his imperial name
Coupled with those words of malice,
Half in anger, half in shame,
Forth the great campaigner came
Slowly from his canvas palace. 30

"Let no hand the bird molest,"
Said he solemnly, "nor hurt her!"
Adding then, by way of jest,
"Golondrina is my guest,
'Tis the wife of some deserter!"

Swift as bowstring speeds a shaft,
Through the camp was spread the
rumor,
And the soldiers, as they quaffed
Flemish beer at dinner, laughed
At the Emperor's pleasant humor. 40

So unharmed and unafraid
Sat the swallow still and brooded,
Till the constant cannonade
Through the walls a breach had
made,
And the siege was thus concluded.

Then the army, elsewhere bent,
Struck its tents as if disbanding,
Only not the Emperor's tent,
For he ordered, ere he went,
Very curtly, "Leave it standing!"

So it stood there all alone, 51
Loosely flapping, torn and tattered,
Till the brood was fledged and flown,
Singing o'er those walls of stone
Which the cannon-shot had shattered.

THE TWO ANGELS

Two angels, one of Life and one of
Death,
Passed o'er our village as the morn-
ing broke;
The dawn was on their faces, and be-
neath,
The sombre houses hearsed with
plumes of smoke.

Their attitude and aspect were the
same,
Alike their features and their robes
of white;
But one was crowned with amaranth,
as with flame,
And one with asphodels, like flakes
of light.

I saw them pause on their celestial
way;
Then said I, with deep fear and
doubt oppressed, 10
"Beat not so loud, my heart, lest
thou betray
The place where thy beloved are at
rest!"

And he who wore the crown of aspho-
dels,
Descending, at my door began to
knock,
And my soul sank within me, as in
wells
The waters sink before an earth-
quake's shock.

I recognized the nameless agony,
The terror and the tremor and the
pain,
That oft before had filled or haunted
me,
And now returned with threefold
strength again. 20

The door I opened to my heavenly
guest,
And listened, for I thought I heard
God's voice;
And, knowing whatso'er he sent was
best,
Dared neither to lament nor to re-
joice.

Then with a smile, that filled the
house with light,
"My errand is not Death, but
Life," he said;
And ere I answered, passing out of
sight,
On his celestial embassy he sped.

'T was at thy door, O friend! and not
at mine,
The angel with the amaranthine
wreath, 30
Pausing, descended, and with voice
divine
Whispered a word that had a sound
like Death.

Then fell upon the house a sudden
gloom,
A shadow on those features fair and
thin;
And softly, from that hushed and
darkened room,
Two angels issued, where but one
went in.

All is of God! If he but wave his
hand,
The mists collect, the rain falls thick
and loud,

Till, with a smile of light on sea and
land,
Lo ! he looks back from the depart-
ing cloud. 40

Angels of Life and Death alike are
his ;
Without his leave they pass no
threshold o'er ;
Who, then, would wish or dare, be-
lieving this,
Against his messengers to shut the
door ?

DAYLIGHT AND MOONLIGHT

In broad daylight, and at noon,
Yesterday I saw the moon
Sailing high, but faint and white,
As a school-boy's paper kite.

In broad daylight, yesterday,
I read a Poet's mystic lay ;
And it seemed to me at most
As a phantom, or a ghost.

But at length the feverish day
Like a passion died away,
And the night, serene and still,
Fell on village, vale, and hill.

Then the moon, in all her pride,
Like a spirit glorified,
Filled and overflowed the night
With revelations of her light.

And the Poet's song again
Passed like music through my brain ;
Night interpreted to me
All its grace and mystery.

THE JEWISH CEMETERY AT NEWPORT

How strange it seems ! These He-
brews in their graves,
Close by the street of this fair sea-
port town,
Silent beside the never silent waves,
At rest in all this moving up and
down !

The trees are white with dust, that
o'er their sleep
Wave their broad curtains in the
south-wind's breath,

While underneath these leafy tents
they keep
The long, mysterious Exodus of
Death.

And these sepulchral stones, so old
and brown,
That pave with level flags their
burial-place, 10
Seem like the tablets of the Law,
thrown down
And broken by Moses at the moun-
tain's base.

The very names recorded here are
strange,
Of foreign accent, and of different
climes ;
Alvares and Rivera interchange
With Abraham and Jacob of old
times.

"Blessed be God, for he created
Death !"
The mourners said, "and Death is
rest and peace ;"
Then added, in the certainty of faith,
"And giveth Life that nevermore
shall cease." 20

Closed are the portals of their Syna-
gogue,
No Psalms of David now the silence
break,
No Rabbi reads the ancient Deca-
logue
In the grand dialect the Prophets
spake.

Gone are the living, but the dead re-
main,
And not neglected ; for a hand un-
seen,
Scattering its bounty, like a summer
rain,
Still keeps their graves and their re-
membrance green.

How came they here ? What burst of
Christian hate,
What persecution, merciless and
blind, 30
Drove o'er the sea — that desert deso-
late —
These Ishmaels and Hagers of man-
kind ?

They lived in narrow streets and lanes
 obscure,
 Ghetto and Judenstrass, in mirk and
 mire;
 Taught in the school of patience to
 endure
 The life of anguish and the death of
 fire.

All their lives long, with the unleav-
 ened bread
 And bitter herbs of exile and its
 fears,
 The wasting famine of the heart they
 fed,
 And slaked its thirst with marah of
 their tears. 40

Anathema maranatha! was the cry
 That rang from town to town, from
 street to street:
 At every gate the accursed Mordecai
 Was mocked and jeered, and
 spurned by Christian feet.

Pride and humiliation hand in hand
 Walked with them through the
 world where'er they went;
 Trampled and beaten were they as the
 sand,
 And yet unshaken as the continent.

For in the background figures vague
 and vast
 Of patriarchs and of prophets rose
 sublime, 50
 And all the great traditions of the Past
 They saw reflected in the coming
 time.

And thus forever with reverted look
 The mystic volume of the world
 they read,
 Spelling it backward, like a Hebrew
 book,
 Till life became a Legend of the
 Dead.

But ah! what once has been shall be
 no more!
 The groaning earth in travail and in
 pain
 Brings forth its races, but does not re-
 store,
 And the dead nations never rise
 again. 60

OLIVER BASSELIN

In the Valley of the Vire
 Still is seen an ancient mill,
 With its gables quaint and queer,
 And beneath the window-sill,
 On the stone,
 These words alone:
 "Oliver Basselin lived here."

Far above it, on the steep,
 Ruined stands the old Chateau;
 Nothing but the donjon-keep 10
 Left for shelter or for show.
 Its vacant eyes
 Stare at the skies,
 Stare at the valley green and deep.

Once a convent, old and brown,
 Looked, but ah! it looks no more,
 From the neighboring hillside down
 On the rushing and the roar
 Of the stream
 Whose sunny gleam 20
 Cheers the little Norman town.

In that darksome mill of stone,
 To the water's dash and din,
 Careless, humble, and unknown,
 Sang the poet Basselin
 Songs that fill
 That ancient mill
 With a splendor of its own.

Never feeling of unrest
 Broke the pleasant dream he
 dreamed; 30
 Only made to be his nest,
 All the lovely valley seemed;
 No desire
 Of soaring higher
 Stirred or fluttered in his breast.

True, his songs were not divine;
 Were not songs of that high art,
 Which, as winds do in the pine,
 Find an answer in each heart;
 But the mirth 40
 Of this green earth
 Laughed and revelled in his line.

From the alehouse and the inn,
 Opening on the narrow street,
 Came the loud, convivial din,
 Singing and applause of feet,

The laughing lays
That in those days
Sang the poet Basselin.

In the castle, cased in steel, 50
Knights, who fought at Agincourt,
Watched and waited, spur on heel;
But the poet sang for sport
Songs that rang
Another clang,
Songs that lowlier hearts could feel.

In the convent, clad in gray,
Sat the monks in lonely cells,
Paced the cloisters, knelt to pray,
And the poet heard their bells; 60
But his rhymes
Found other chimes,
Nearer to the earth than they.

Gone are all the barons bold,
Gone are all the knights and squires,
Gone the abbot stern and cold,
And the brotherhood of friars.
Not a name
Remains to fame,
From those mouldering days of old! 70

But the poet's memory here
Of the landscape makes a part;
Like the river, swift and clear,
Flows his song through many a
heart;
Haunting still
That ancient mill
In the valley of the Vire.

VICTOR GALBRAITH

UNDER the walls of Monterey
At daybreak the bugles began to play,
Victor Galbraith!
In the mist of the morning damp and
gray,
These were the words they seemed to
say:
"Come forth to thy death,
Victor Galbraith!"

Forth he came, with a martial tread;
Firm was his step, erect his head;
Victor Galbraith, 10
He who so well the bugle played,
Could not mistake the words it said:
"Come forth to thy death,
Victor Galbraith!"

He looked at the earth, he looked at
the sky,
He looked at the files of musketry,
Victor Galbraith!
And he said, with a steady voice and
eye,
"Take good aim; I am ready to die!"
Thus challenges death 20
Victor Galbraith.

Twelve fiery tongues flashed straight
and red,
Six leaden balls on their errand sped;
Victor Galbraith
Falls to the ground, but he is not dead:
His name was not stamped on those
balls of lead,
And they only scath
Victor Galbraith.

Three balls are in his breast and brain,
But he rises out of the dust again, 30
Victor Galbraith!
The water he drinks has a bloody
stain;
"Oh, kill me, and put me out of my
pain!"
In his agony prayeth
Victor Galbraith.

Forth dart once more those tongues of
flame,
And the bugler has died a death of
shame,
Victor Galbraith!
His soul has gone back to whence it
came, 40
And no one answers to the name,
When the Sergeant saith,
"Victor Galbraith!"

Under the walls of Monterey
By night a bugle is heard to play,
Victor Galbraith!
Through the mist of the valley damp
and gray
The sentinels hear the sound, and
say,
"That is the wraith
Of Victor Galbraith!"

MY LOST YOUTH

OFTEN I think of the beautiful town
That is seated by the sea;

Often in thought go up and down
The pleasant streets of that dear old
town,

And my youth comes back to me.

And a verse of a Lapland song

Is haunting my memory still:

"A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts." 9

And the burden of that old song,
It murmurs and whispers still:

"A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

I remember the black wharves and
the slips,

And the sea-tides tossing free; 20

"The Longfellow House," Portland, Maine

I can see the shadowy lines of its trees,
And catch, in sudden gleams,
The sheen of the far-surrounding seas,
And islands that were the Hesperides
Of all my boyish dreams.

And Spanish sailors with bearded
lips,

And the beauty and mystery of the
ships,

And the magic of the sea.

And the voice of that wayward
song
Is singing and saying still :
" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

I remember the bulwarks by the
shore,
And the fort upon the hill;
The sunrise gun, with its hollow
roar,
The drumbeat repeated o'er and o'er,
And the bugle wild and shrill.
And the music of that old song
Throbs in my memory still :
" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

I remember the sea-fight far away,
How it thundered o'er the tide!
And the dead captains, as they lay
In their graves, o'erlooking the tran-
quil bay
Where they in battle died.
And the sound of that mournful
song
Goes through me with a thrill :
" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

I can see the breezy dome of groves,
The shadows of Deering's Woods;
And the friendships old and the early
loves
Come back with a Sabbath sound, as
of doves
In quiet neighborhoods.
And the verse of that sweet old
song,
It flutters and murmurs still :
" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

I remember the gleams and glooms
that dart
Across the school-boy's brain;
The song and the silence in the heart,
That in part are prophecies, and in
part
Are longings wild and vain.
And the voice of that fitful song
Sings on, and is never still :

" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

There are things of which I may not
speak ;
There are dreams that cannot die ;
There are thoughts that make the
strong heart weak,
And bring a pallor into the cheek,
And a mist before the eye.
And the words of that fatal song
Come over me like a chill :
" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

Strange to me now are the forms I
meet
When I visit the dear old town ;
But the native air is pure and sweet,
And the trees that o'ershadow each
well-known street,
As they balance up and down,
Are singing the beautiful song,
Are sighing and whispering still :
" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

And Deering's Woods are fresh and
fair,
And with joy that is almost pain
My heart goes back to wander there,
And among the dreams of the days
that were,
I find my lost youth again.
And the strange and beautiful
song,
The groves are repeating it still :
" A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long,
long thoughts."

THE ROPEWALK

In that building, long and low,
With its windows all a-row,
Like the port-holes of a hulk,
Human spiders spin and spin,
Backward down their threads so thin
Dropping, each a hempen bulk.

At the end, an open door ;
Squares of sunshine on the floor

Light the long and dusky lane;
And the whirring of a wheel, 10
Dull and drowsy, makes me feel
All its spokes are in my brain.

As the spinners to the end
Downward go and reascend,
Gleam the long threads in the
sun;
While within this brain of mine
Cobwebs brighter and more fine
By the busy wheel are spun.

Two fair maidens in a swing,
Like white doves upon the wing, 20
First before my vision pass;
Laughing, as their gentle hands
Closely clasp the twisted strands,
At their shadow on the grass.

Then a booth of mountebanks,
With its smell of tan and planks,
And a girl poised high in air
On a cord, in spangled dress.
With a faded loveliness,
And a weary look of care. 30

Then a homestead among farms,
And a woman with bare arms
Drawing water from a well;
As the bucket mounts apace,
With it mounts her own fair face,
As at some magician's spell.

Then an old man in a tower,
Ringing loud the noontide hour,
While the rope coils round and
round
Like a serpent at his feet, 40
And again, in swift retreat,
Nearly lifts him from the ground.

Then within a prison-yard,
Faces fixed, and stern, and hard,
Laughter and indecent mirth;
Ah! it is the gallows-tree!
Breath of Christian charity,
Blow, and sweep it from the earth!

Then a school-boy, with his kite
Gleaming in a sky of light, 50
And an eager, upward look;
Steeds pursued through lane and
field;
Fowlers with their snares concealed;
And an angler by a brook.

Ships rejoicing in the breeze,
Wrecks that float o'er unknown seas,
Anchors dragged through faithless
sand;

Sea-fog drifting overhead,
And, with lessening line and lead,
Sailors feeling for the land. 60

All these scenes do I behold,
These, and many left untold,
In that building long and low;
While the wheel goes round and
round,
With a drowsy, dreamy sound,
And the spinners backward go.

THE GOLDEN MILE-STONE

LEAFLESS are the trees; their purple
branches
Spread themselves abroad, like reefs
of coral,
Rising silent
In the Red Sea of the winter sun-
set.

From the hundred chimneys of the
village,
Like the Afreet in the Arabian story,
Smoky columns
Tower aloft into the air of amber.

At the window winks the flickering
firelight;
Here and there the lamps of evening
glimmer, 10
Social watch-fires
Answering one another through the
darkness.

On the hearth the lighted logs are
glowing
And like Ariel in the cloven pine-
tree
For its freedom
Groans and sighs the air imprisoned
in them.

By the fireside there are old men
seated,
Seeing ruined cities in the ashes,
Asking sadly
Of the Past what it can ne'er restore
them. 20

By the fireside there are youthful
 dreamers,
 Building castles fair, with stately
 stairways,
 Asking blindly
 Of the Future what it cannot give
 them.

By the fireside tragedies are acted
 In whose scenes appear two actors
 only,
 Wife and husband,
 And above them God the sole spec-
 tator.

By the fireside there are peace and
 comfort,
 Wives and children, with fair, thought-
 ful faces,

30

Waiting, watching
 For a well-known footstep in the pas-
 sage.

Each man's chimney is his Golden
 Mile-Stone;
 Is the central point, from which he
 measures

 Every distance
 Through the gateways of the world
 around him.

In his farthest wanderings still he sees
 it;

Hears the talking flame, the answering
 night-wind,

 As he heard them
 When he sat with those who were
 but are not.

Happy he whom neither wealth nor
fashion,
Nor the march of the encroaching city,
Drives an exile
From the hearth of his ancestral home-
stead.

We may build more splendid habita-
tions,
Fill our rooms with paintings, and
with sculptures,
But we cannot
Buy with gold the old associations!

CATAWBA WINE

THIS song of mine
Is a Song of the Vine,
To be sung by the glowing embers
Of wayside inns,
When the rain begins
To darken the drear Novembers.

It is not a song
Of the Scuppernong,
From warm Carolinian valleys,
Nor the Isabel
And the Muscadel
That bask in our garden alleys.

Nor the red Mustang,
Whose clusters hang
O'er the waves of the Colorado,
And the fiery flood
Of whose purple blood
Has a dash of Spanish bravado.

For richest and best
Is the wine of the West,
That grows by the Beautiful River;
Whose sweet perfume
Fills all the room
With a benison on the giver.

And as hollow trees
Are the haunts of bees,
Forever going and coming;
So this crystal hive
Is all alive
With a swarming and buzzing and
humming.

Very good in its way
Is the Verzenay,
Or the Sillery soft and creamy;

But Catawba wine
Has a taste more divine,
More dulcet, delicious, and dreamy.

There grows no vine
By the haunted Rhine,
By Danube or Guadalquivir,
Nor on island or cape,
That bears such a grape
As grows by the Beautiful River.

Drugged is their juice
For foreign use,
When shipped o'er the reeling At-
lantic,
To rack our brains
With the fever pains,
That have driven the Old World frantic.

To the sewers and sinks
With all such drinks,
And after them tumble the mixer;
For a poison malign
Is such Borgia wine,
Or at best but a Devil's Elixir.

While pure as a spring
Is the wine I sing,
And to praise it, one needs but name
it;
For Catawba wine
Has need of no sign,
No tavern-bush to proclaim it.

And this Song of the Vine,
This greeting of mine,
The winds and the birds shall deliver
To the Queen of the West,
In her garlands dressed,
On the banks of the Beautiful River.

SANTA FILOMENA

WHENE'ER a noble deed is wrought,
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought,
Our hearts, in glad surprise,
To higher levels rise.

The tidal wave of deeper souls
Into our inmost being rolls,
And lifts us unawares
Out of all meaner cares.

Honor to those whose words or deeds
Thus help us in our daily needs,

And by their overflow
Raise us from what is low!

Thus thought I, as by night I read
Of the great army of the dead,
The trenches cold and damp,
The starved and frozen camp, —

The wounded from the battle-plain,
In dreary hospitals of pain,
The cheerless corridors,
The cold and stony floors. 20

Lo! in that house of misery
A lady with a lamp I see
Pass through the glimmering
gloom,
And flit from room to room.

And slow, as in a dream of bliss,
The speechless sufferer turns to kiss
Her shadow, as it falls
Upon the darkening walls.

As if a door in heaven should be
Opened and then closed suddenly, 30
The vision came and went,
The light shone and was spent.

On England's annals, through the long
Hereafter of her speech and song,
That light its rays shall cast
From portals of the past.

A Lady with a Lamp shall stand
In the great history of the land,
A noble type of good,
Heroic womanhood. 40

Nor even shall be wanting here
The palm, the lily, and the spear,
The symbols that of yore
Saint Filomena bore.

THE DISCOVERER OF THE NORTH CAPE

A LEAF FROM KING ALFRED'S OROSIUS

OTHER, the old sea-captain,
Who dwelt in Helgoland,
To King Alfred, the Lover of Truth,
Brought a snow-white walrus-tooth,
Which he held in his brown right
hand.

His figure was tall and stately,
Like a boy's his eye appeared;
His hair was yellow as hay,
But threads of a silvery gray
Gleamed in his tawny beard. 10

Hearty and hale was Other,.
His cheek had the color of oak;
With a kind of a laugh in his
speech,
Like the sea-tide on a beach,
As unto the King he spoke.

And Alfred, King of the Saxons,
Had a book upon his knees,
And wrote down the wondrous tale
Of him who was first to sail
Into the Arctic seas. 20

"So far I live to the northward,
No man lives north of me;
To the east are wild mountain-chains,
And beyond them meres and plains;
To the westward all is sea.

"So far I live to the northward,
From the harbor of Skeringes-hale,
If you only sailed by day,
With a fair wind all the way,
More than a month would you
sail. 30

"I own six hundred reindeer,
With sheep and swine beside;
I have tribute from the Finns,
Whalebone and reindeer-skins,
And ropes of walrus-hide.

"I ploughed the land with horses,
But my heart was ill at ease,
For the old seafaring men
Came to me now and then,
With their sagas of the seas; — 40

"Of Iceland and of Greenland,
And the stormy Hebrides,
And the undiscovered deep; —
Oh I could not eat nor sleep
For thinking of those seas.

"To the northward stretched the des-
ert,
How far I fain would know;
So at last I sallied forth,
And three days sailed due north,
As far as the whale-ships go. 50

"To the west of me was the ocean,
To the right the desolate shore,
But I did not slacken sail
For the walrus or the whale,
Till after three days more.

"The days grew longer and longer,
Till they became as one,
And northward through the haze
I saw the sullen blaze
Of the red midnight sun. 60

"And then uprose before me,
Upon the water's edge,
The huge and haggard shape
Of that unknown North Cape,
Whose form is like a wedge.

"The sea was rough and stormy,
The tempest howled and wailed,
And the sea-fog, like a ghost,
Haunted that dreary coast,
But onward still I sailed. 70

"Four days I steered to eastward,
Four days without a night:
Round in a fiery ring
Went the great sun, O King,
With red and lurid light."

Here Alfred, King of the Saxons,
Ceased writing for a while;
And raised his eyes from his book,
With a strange and puzzled look,
And an incredulous smile. 80

But Othere, the old sea-captain,
He neither paused nor stirred,
Till the King listened, and then
Once more took up his pen,
And wrote down every word.

"And now the land," said Othere,
"Bent southward suddenly,
And I followed the curving shore
And ever southward bore
Into a nameless sea. 90

"And there we hunted the walrus,
The narwhale, and the seal;
Ha! 't was a noble game!
And like the lightning's flame
Flew our harpoons of steel.

'There were six of us all together,
Norsemen of Helgoland ;

In two days and no more
We killed of them threescore,
And dragged them to the strand!" 99

Here Alfred the Truth-teller
Suddenly closed his book,
And lifted his blue eyes,
With doubt and strange surmise
Depicted in their look.

And Othere the old sea-captain
Stared at him wild and weird,
Then smiled, till his shining teeth
Gleamed white from underneath
His tawny, quivering beard. 110

And to the King of the Saxons,
In witness of the truth,
Raising his noble head,
He stretched his brown hand, and
said,
"Behold this walrus-tooth!"

DAYBREAK

A WIND came up out of the sea,
And said, "O mists, make room for
me."

It hailed the ships, and cried, "Sail
on,
Ye mariners, the night is gone."

And hurried landward far away,
Crying, "Awake! it is the day."

It said unto the forest, "Shout!
Hang all your leafy banners out!"

It touched the wood-bird's folded
wing,
And said, "O bird, awake and sing."

And o'er the farms, "O chanticleer,
Your clarion blow; the day is near."

It whispered to the fields of corn,
"Bow down, and hail the coming
morn."

It shouted through the belfry-tower,
"Awake, O bell! proclaim the hour."

It crossed the churchyard with a sigh,
And said, "Not yet! in quiet lie."

"Sail on,
Ye mariners, the night is gone"

THE FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY OF
AGASSIZ

MAY 28, 1857.

It was fifty years ago
In the pleasant month of May,
In the beautiful Pays de Vaud,
A child in its cradle lay.

And Nature, the old nurse, took
The child upon her knee,
Saying: "Here is a story-book
Thy Father has written for thee."

"Come, wander with me," she said,
"Into regions yet untrod;
And read what is still unread
In the manuscripts of God."

And he wandered away and away
With Nature, the dear old nurse,

Who sang to him night and day
The rhymes of the universe.

And whenever the way seemed long,
Or his heart began to fail,
She would sing a more wonderful
song,
Or tell a more marvellous tale.

So she keeps him still a child,
And will not let him go,
Though at times his heart beats wild
For the beautiful Pays de Vaud;

Though at times he hears in his dreams
The Ranz des Vaches of old,
And the rush of mountain streams
From glaciers clear and cold;

And the mother at home says, "Hark!
For his voice I listen and yearn;
It is growing late and dark,
And my boy does not return!"

CHILDREN

COME to me, O ye children!
 For I hear you at your play,
 And the questions that perplexed me
 Have vanished quite away.

Ye open the eastern windows,
 That look towards the sun,
 Where thoughts are singing swallows
 And the brooks of morning run.

In your hearts are the birds and the
 sunshine,
 In your thoughts the brooklet's flow,
 But in mine is the wind of Autumn
 And the first fall of the snow.

Ah! what would the world be to us
 If the children were no more?
 We should dread the desert behind us
 Worse than the dark before.

What the leaves are to the forest,
 With light and air for food,
 Ere their sweet and tender juices
 Have been hardened into wood, —

That to the world are children;
 Through them it feels the glow
 Of a brighter and sunnier climate
 Than reaches the trunks below.

Come to me, O ye children!
 And whisper in my ear
 What the birds and the winds are
 singing
 In your sunny atmosphere.

For what are all our contrivings,
 And the wisdom of our books,
 When compared with your caresses,
 And the gladness of your looks?

Ye are better than all the ballads
 That ever were sung or said;
 For ye are living poems,
 And all the rest are dead.

SANDALPHON

HAVE you read in the Talmud of
 old,
 In the Legends the Rabbins have told
 Of the limitless realms of the air,

Have you read it, — the marvellous
 story
 Of Sandalphon, the Angel of Glory,
 Sandalphon, the Angel of Prayer?

How, erect, at the outermost gates
 Of the City Celestial he waits,
 With his feet on the ladder of light,
 That, crowded with angels unnum-
 bered,
 By Jacob was seen, as he slumbered
 Alone in the desert at night?

The Angels of Wind and of Fire
 Chant only one hymn, and expire
 With the song's irresistible stress;
 Expire in their rapture and wonder,
 As harp-strings are broken asunder
 By music they throb to express.

But serene in the rapturous throng,
 Unmoved by the rush of the song,
 With eyes unimpassioned and slow,
 Among the dead angels, the death-
 less
 Sandalphon stands listening breathless
 To sounds that ascend from be-
 low; —

From the spirits on earth that adore,
 From the souls that entreat and im-
 plore
 In the fervor and passion of prayer;
 From the hearts that are broken with
 losses,
 And weary with dragging the crosses
 Too heavy for mortals to bear.

And he gathers the prayers as he
 stands,
 And they change into flowers in his
 hands,
 Into garlands of purple and red;
 And beneath the great arch of the por-
 tal,
 Through the streets of the City Im-
 mortal
 Is wafted the fragrance they shed.

It is but a legend, I know, —
 A fable, a phantom, a show,
 Of the ancient Rabbinical lore;
 Yet the old mediæval tradition,
 The beautiful, strange superstition,
 But haunts me and holds me the
 more.

"They are plotting and planning together"

When I look from my window at
 night,
 And the welkin above is all white,
 All throbbing and panting with
 stars,
 Among them majestic is standing
 Sandalphon the angel, expanding
 His pinions in nebulous bars.

And the legend, I feel, is a part
 Of the hunger and thirst of the heart,
 The frenzy and fire of the brain, 51

That grasps at the fruitage forbidden,
 The golden pomegranates of Eden,
 To quiet its fever and pain.

FLIGHT THE SECOND

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

BETWEEN the dark and the daylight.
 When the night is beginning to
 lower,

Comes a pause in the day's occupa-
tions,
That is known as the Children's
Hour.

I hear in the chamber above me
The patter of little feet,
The sound of a door that is opened,
And voices soft and sweet.

From my study I see in the lamplight,
Descending the broad hall stair,
Grave Alice, and laughing Allegra,
And Edith with golden hair.

A whisper, and then a silence :
Yet I know by their merry eyes
They are plotting and planning to-
gether
To take me by surprise.

A sudden rush from the stairway,
A sudden raid from the hall !
By three doors left unguarded
They enter my castle wall !

They climb up into my turret
O'er the arms and back of my chair ;
If I try to escape, they surround me ;
They seem to be everywhere.

They almost devour me with kisses,
Their arms about me entwine,
Till I think of the Bishop of Bingen
In his Mouse-Tower on the Rhine !

Do you think, O blue-eyed banditti,
Because you have scaled the wall,
Such an old mustache as I am
Is not a match for you all !

I have you fast in my fortress,
And will not let you depart,
But put you down into the dungeon
In the round-tower of my heart.

And there will I keep you forever,
Yes, forever and a day.
Till the walls shall crumble to ruin,
And moulder in dust away !

ENCELADUS

UNDER Mount Etna he lies,
It is slumber, it is not death ;

For he struggles at times to arise,
And above him the lurid skies
Are hot with his fiery breath.

The crags are piled on his breast,
The earth is heaped on his head ;
But the groans of his wild unrest,
Though smothered and half sup-
pressed,
Are heard, and he is not dead.

And the nations far away
Are watching with eager eyes ;
They talk together and say,
"To-morrow, perhaps to-day,
Enceladus will arise !"

And the old gods, the austere
Oppressors in their strength.
Stand aghast and white with fear
At the ominous sounds they hear,
And tremble, and mutter, "At
length!"

Ah me! for the land that is sown
With the harvest of despair !
Where the burning cinders, blown
From the lips of the overthrown
Enceladus, fill the air ;

Where ashes are heaped in drifts
Over vineyard and field and town,
Whenever he starts and lifts
His head through the blackened rifts
Of the crags that keep him down.

See, see! the red light shines!
'T is the glare of his awful eyes !
And the storm-wind shouts through
the pines
Of Alps and of Apennines
"Enceladus, arise !"

THE CUMBERLAND

AT anchor in Hampton Roads we
lay,
On board of the Cumberland, sloop-
of-war ;
And at times from the fortress across
the bay
The alarm of drums swept past,
Or a bugle blast
From the camp on the shore.

Then far away to the south uprose
 A little feather of snow-white
 smoke,
 And we knew that the iron ship of our
 foes
 Was steadily steering its course ¹⁰
 To try the force
 Of our ribs of oak.

Down upon us heavily runs,
 Silent and sullen, the floating fort;
 Then comes a puff of smoke from her
 guns,
 And leaps the terrible death,
 With fiery breath,
 From each open port.

We are not idle, but send her straight
 Defiance back in a full broadside! ²⁰
 As hail rebounds from a roof of slate,
 Rebounds our heavier hail
 From each iron scale
 Of the monster's hide.

"Strike your flag!" the rebel cries,
 In his arrogant old plantation strain
 "Never!" our gallant Morris replies;
 "It is better to sink than to
 yield!"
 And the whole air pealed
 With the cheers of our men. ³⁰

Then, like a kraken huge and black,
 She crushed our ribs in her iron
 grasp!
 Down went the Cumberland all a
 wrack,
 With a sudden shudder of death,
 And the cannon's breath
 For her dying gasp.

Next morn, as the sun rose over the
 bay,
 Still floated our flag at the main-
 mast head.
 Lord, how beautiful was Thy day!
 Every waft of the air ⁴⁰
 Was a whisper of prayer,
 Or a dirge for the dead.

Ho! brave hearts that went down in
 the seas!
 Ye are at peace in the troubled
 stream;
 Ho! brave land! with hearts like
 these,

Thy flag, that is rent in twain,
 Shall be one again,
 And without a seam!

SNOW-FLAKES

Out of the bosom of the Air,
 Out of the cloud-folds of her gar-
 ments shaken,
 Over the woodlands brown and bare,
 Over the harvest-fields forsaken,
 Silent, and soft, and slow
 Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take
 Suddenly shape in some divine ex-
 pression,
 Even as the troubled heart doth make
 In the white countenance confes-
 sion,
 The troubled sky reveals
 The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,
 Slowly in silent syllables recorded;
 This is the secret of despair,
 Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,
 Now whispered and revealed
 To wood and field.

A DAY OF SUNSHINE

O Gift of God! O perfect day:
 Whereon shall no man work, but
 play;
 Whereon it is enough for me,
 Not to be doing, but to be!

Through every fibre of my brain,
 Through every nerve, through every
 vein,
 I feel the electric thrill, the touch
 Of life, that seems almost too much.

I hear the wind among the trees
 Playing celestial symphonies;
 I see the branches downward bent,
 Like keys of some great instrument.

And over me unrolls on high
 The splendid scenery of the sky,
 Where through a sapphire sea the
 sun
 Sails like a golden galleon,

Towards yonder cloud-land in the
West,
Towards yonder Islands of the Blest,
Whose steep sierra far uplifts
Its craggy summits white with drifts.

Blow, winds! and waft through all
the rooms
The snow-flakes of the cherry-blooms!
Blow, winds! and bend within my
reach
The fiery blossoms of the peach!

O Life and Love! O happy throng
Of thoughts, whose only speech is
song!
O heart of man! canst thou not be
Blithe as the air is, and as free?

SOMETHING LEFT UNDONE

LABOR with what zeal we will,
Something still remains undone,
Something uncompleted still
Waits the rising of the sun.

By the bedside, on the stair,
At the threshold, near the gates,
With its menace or its prayer,
Like a mendicant it waits;

Waits, and will not go away;
Waits, and will not be gainsaid;
By the cares of yesterday
Each to-day is heavier made;

Till at length the burden seems
Greater than our strength can bear,
Heavy as the weight of dreams,
Pressing on us everywhere.

And we stand from day to day,
Like the dwarfs of times gone by
Who, as Northern legends say,
On their shoulders held the sky.

WEARINESS

O LITTLE feet! that such long years
Must wander on through hopes and
fears,
Must ache and bleed beneath your
load;
I, nearer to the wayside inn
Where toil shall cease and rest be-
gin,
Am weary, thinking of your road!

O little hands! that, weak or strong,
Have still to serve or rule so long,
Have still so long to give or ask;
I, who so much with book and pen
Have toiled among my fellow-men,
Am weary, thinking of your task

O little hearts! that throb and beat
With such impatient, feverish heat,
Such limitless and strong desires;
Mine, that so long has glowed and
burned,
With passions into ashes turned,
Now covers and conceals its fires.

O little souls! as pure and white
And crystalline as rays of light
Direct from heaven, their source
divine;
Refracted through the mist of years,
How red my setting sun appears,
How lurid looks this soul of mine!

The Wayside Inn

TALES OF A WAYSIDE INN

PART FIRST

PRELUDE

THE WAYSIDE INN

ONE Autumn night, in Sudbury town,
Across the meadows bare and brown,
The windows of the wayside inn
Gleamed red with fire-light through
the leaves
Of woodbine, hanging from the eaves
Their crimson curtains rent and thin.

As ancient is this hostelry
As any in the land may be,
Built in the old Colonial day,
When men lived in a grander way, 20
With ampler hospitality ;
A kind of old Hobgoblin Hall,

Now somewhat fallen to decay,
With weather stains upon the wall,
And stairways worn, and crazy doors,
And creaking and uneven floors,
And chimneys huge, and tiled and
tall.

A region of repose it seems,
A place of slumber and of dreams,
Remote among the wooded hills! 20
For there no noisy railway speeds,
Its torch-race scattering smoke and
gleeds ;
But noon and night, the panting
teams
Stop under the great oaks, that throw
Tangles of light and shade below,
On roofs and doors and window-sills.
Across the road the barns display
Their lines of stalls, their mows of hay,

Through the wide doors the breezes
 blow,
 The wattled cocks strut to and fro, 30
 And, half effaced by rain and shine,
 The Red Horse prances on the sign.
 Round this old-fashioned, quaint
 abode
 Deep silence reigned, save when a
 gust
 Went rushing down the county road,
 And skeletons of leaves, and dust,
 A moment quickened by its breath,
 Shuddered and danced their dance of
 death,
 And through the ancient oaks o'erhead
 Mysterious voices moaned and fled. 40

But from the parlor of the inn
 A pleasant murmur smote the ear,
 Like water rushing through a weir:
 Oft interrupted by the din
 Of laughter and of loud applause,
 And, in each intervening pause,
 The music of a violin.
 The fire-light, shedding over all
 The splendor of its ruddy glow,
 Filled the whole parlor large and low ;
 It gleamed on wainscot and on wall, 51
 It touched with more than wonted
 grace
 Fair Princess Mary's pictured face ;
 It bronzed the rafters overhead,
 On the old spinet's ivory keys
 It played inaudible melodies,
 It crowned the sombre clock with
 flame,
 The hands, the hours, the maker's
 name,
 And painted with a livelier red
 The Landlord's coat-of-arms again ; 60
 And, flashing on the window-pane,
 Emblazoned with its light and shade
 The jovial rhymes, that still remain,
 Writ near a century ago,
 By the great Major Molineaux,
 Whom Hawthorne has immortal made.

Before the blazing fire of wood
 Erect the rapt musician stood ;
 And ever and anon he bent
 His head upon his instrument, 70
 And seemed to listen, till he caught
 Confessions of its secret thought, —
 The joy, the triumph, the lament,
 The exultation and the pain ;
 Then, by the magic of his art,

He soothed the throbbings of its heart,
 And lulled it into peace again.

Around the fireside at their ease
 There sat a group of friends, entranced
 With the delicious melodies ; 80
 Who from the far-off noisy town
 Had to the wayside inn come down,
 To rest beneath its old oak trees.
 The fire-light on their faces glanced,
 Their shadows on the wainscot danced,
 And, though of different lands and
 speech,
 Each had his tale to tell, and each
 Was anxious to be pleased and please.
 And while the sweet musician plays,
 Let me in outline sketch them all, 90
 Perchance uncouthly as the blaze
 With its uncertain touch portrays
 Their shadowy semblance on the wall.

But first the Landlord will I trace ;
 Grave in his aspect and attire ;
 A man of ancient pedigree,
 A Justice of the Peace was he,
 Known in all Sudbury as "The
 Squire."
 Proud was he of his name and race,
 Of old Sir William and Sir Hugh, 100
 And in the parlor, full in view,
 His coat-of-arms, well framed and
 glazed,
 Upon the wall in colors blazed ;
 He beareth gules upon his shield,
 A chevron argent in the field,
 With three wolf's-heads, and for the
 crest
 A Wyvern part-per-pale addressed
 Upon a helmet barred ; below
 The scroll reads, "By the name of
 Howe."
 And over this, no longer bright, 110
 Though glimmering with a latent light.
 Was hung the sword his grandsire bore
 In the rebellious days of yore,
 Down there at Concord in the fight.

A youth was there, of quiet ways,
 A Student of old books and days,
 To whom all tongues and lands were
 known,
 And yet a lover of his own ;
 With many a social virtue graced,
 And yet a friend of solitude ; 120
 A man of such a genial mood
 The heart of all things he embraced,

And yet of such fastidious taste,
He never found the best too good.
Books were his passion and delight,
And in his upper room at home
Stood many a rare and sumptuous
tome,

In vellum bound, with gold bedight,
Great volumes garmented in white,
Recalling Florence, Pisa, Rome. 130
He loved the twilight that surrounds
The border-land of old romance;
Where glitter hauberk, helm, and
lance,

And banner waves, and trumpet
sounds,

And ladies ride with hawk on wrist,
And mighty warriors sweep along,
Magnified by the purple mist,
The dusk of centuries and of song.
The chronicles of Charlemagne,
Of Merlin and the Mort d'Arthure, 140

Mingled together in his brain
With tales of Flores and Blanchefleur,
Sir Ferumbas, Sir Eglamour,
Sir Launcelot, Sir Morgadour,
Sir Guy, Sir Bevis, Sir Gawain.

A young Sicilian, too, was there;
In sight of Etna born and bred,
Some breath of its volcanic air
Was glowing in his heart and brain,
And, being rebellious to his liege, 150
After Palermo's fatal siege,
Across the western seas he fled,
In good King Bomba's happy reign.
His face was like a summer night,
All flooded with a dusky light;
His hands were small; his teeth shone
white

As sea-shells, when he smiled or spoke;
His sinews supple and strong as
oak;

"There sat a group of friends, entranced
With the delicious melodies"

Clean shaven was he as a priest,
 Who at the mass on Sunday sings, 160
 Save that upon his upper lip
 His beard, a good palm's length at
 least,
 Level and pointed at the tip,
 Shot sideways, like a swallow's wings.
 The poets read he o'er and o'er,
 And most of all the Immortal Four
 Of Italy; and next to those
 The story-telling bard of prose,
 Who wrote the joyous Tuscan tales
 Of the Decameron, that make 170
 Fiesole's green hills and vales
 Remembered for Boccaccio's sake.
 Much too of music was his thought;
 The melodies and measures fraught
 With sunshine and the open air,
 Of vineyards and the singing sea
 Of his beloved Sicily;
 And much it pleased him to peruse
 The songs of the Sicilian muse, —
 Bucolic songs by Meli sung 180
 In the familiar peasant tongue,
 That made men say, "Behold! once
 more
 The pitying gods to earth restore
 Theocritus of Syracuse!"

A Spanish Jew from Alicant
 With aspect grand and grave was
 there;
 Vender of silks and fabrics rare,
 And attar of rose from the Levant.
 Like an old Patriarch he appeared,
 Abraham or Isaac, or at least 190
 Some later Prophet or High-Priest;
 With lustrous eyes, and olive skin,
 And, wildly tossed from cheeks and
 chin,
 'The tumbling cataract of his beard.
 His garments breathed a spicy scent
 Of cinnamon and sandal blent,
 Like the soft aromatic gales
 That meet the mariner, who sails
 Through the Moluccas, and the seas
 That wash the shores of Celebes. 200
 All stories that recorded are
 By Pierre Alphonse he knew by
 heart,
 And it was rumored he could say
 The Parables of Sandabar,
 And all the Fables of Pilpay,
 Or if not all, the greater part!
 Well versed was he in Hebrew books,
 Talmud and Targum, and the lore

Of Kabala; and evermore
 There was a mystery in his looks; 210
 His eyes seemed gazing far away,
 As if in vision or in trance
 He heard the solemn sackbut play,
 And saw the Jewish maidens dance.

A Theologian, from the school
 Of Cambridge on the Charles, was
 there
 Skilful alike with tongue and pen,
 He preached to all men everywhere
 The Gospel of the Golden Rule,
 The New Commandment given to
 men, 220
 Thinking the deed, and not the creed,
 Would help us in our utmost need.
 With reverent feet the earth he trod,
 Nor banished nature from his plan,
 But studied still with deep research
 To build the Universal Church,
 Lofty as is the love of God,
 And ample as the wants of man.

A Poet, too, was there, whose verse
 Was tender, musical, and terse; 230
 The inspiration, the delight,
 The gleam, the glory, the swift
 flight
 Of thoughts so sudden, that they
 seem
 The revelations of a dream,
 All these were his; but with them
 came
 No envy of another's fame;
 He did not find his sleep less sweet
 For music in some neighboring street,
 Nor rustling hear in every breeze
 The laurels of Miltiades. 240
 Honor and blessings on his head
 While living, good report when dead,
 Who, not too eager for renown,
 Accepts, but does not clutch, the
 crown!

Last the Musician, as he stood
 Illumined by that fire of wood;
 Fair-haired, blue-eyed, his aspect
 blithe,
 His figure tall and straight and lithe,
 And every feature of his face
 Revealing his Norwegian race; 250
 A radiance, streaming from within,
 Around his eyes and forehead beamed,
 The Angel with the violin,
 Painted by Raphael, he seemed.

He lived in that ideal world
Whose language is not speech, but
song;

Around him evermore the throng
Of elves and sprites their dances
whirled;

The Strömkarl sang, the cataract
hurled

Its headlong waters from the height;
And mingled in the wild delight 261

The scream of sea-birds in their flight,
The rumor of the forest trees,

The plunge of the implacable seas,

The tumult of the wind at night,

Voices of eld, like trumpets blow-
ing,

Old ballads, and wild melodies

Through mist and darkness pouring
forth,

Like Elivagar's river flowing

Out of the glaciers of the North. 270

The instrument on which he played

Was in Cremona's workshops made,

By a great master of the past,

Ere yet was lost the art divine;

Fashioned of maple and of pine,

That in Tyrolean forests vast

Had rocked and wrestled with the
blast:

Exquisite was it in design,

Perfect in each minutest part,

A marvel of the lutist's art; 280

And in its hollow chamber, thus,

The maker from whose hands it came

Had written his unrivalled name, —

"Antonius Stradivarius."

And when he played, the atmosphere

Was filled with magic, and the ear

Caught echoes of that Harp of Gold,

Whose music had so weird a sound,

The hunted stag forgot to bound,

The leaping rivulet backward rolled,

The birds came down from bush and
tree, 291

The dead came from beneath the sea,

The maiden to the harper's knee!

The music ceased; the applause was
loud,

The pleased musician smiled and
bowed;

The wood-fire clapped its hands of
flame,

The shadows on the wainscot stirred,

And from the harpsichord there came
A ghostly murmur of acclaim,
A sound like that sent down at night
By birds of passage in their flight, 301
From the remotest distance heard.

Then silence followed; then began
A clamor for the Landlord's tale, —

The story promised them of old,

They said, but always left untold;

And he, although a bashful man,

And all his courage seemed to fail,

Finding excuse of no avail,

Yielded; and thus the story ran. 310

THE LANDLORD'S TALE

PAUL REVERE'S RIDE

LISTEN, my children, and you shall
hear

Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-
five;

Hardly a man is now alive

Who remembers that famous day and
year.

He said to his friend, "If the British
march

By land or sea from the town to-
night,

Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry
arch

Of the North Church tower as a signal
light, —

One, if by land, and two, if by sea; 10

And I on the opposite shore will be,

Ready to ride and spread the alarm

Through every Middlesex village and
farm,

For the country folk to be up and to
arm."

Then he said, "Good-night!" and
with muffled oar

Silently rowed to the Charlestown
shore,

Just as the moon rose over the bay,

Where swinging wide at her moorings
lay

The Somerset, British man-of-war;

A phantom ship, with each mast and
spar 20

Across the moon like a prison bar,

And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend, through alley
and street,
Wanders and watches with eager ears,

Then he climbed the tower of the Old
North Church,
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy
tread,
To the belfry-chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their
perch

"A second lamp in the belfry burns!"

Fill in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of
feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers,
Marching down to their boats on the
shore.

On the sombre rafters, that round
him made
Masses and moving shapes of
shade, —
By the trembling ladder, steep and
tall,
To the highest window in the
wall,

Where he paused to listen and look
down

A moment on the roofs of the town, 40
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the
dead,

In their night-encampment on the
hill,

Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's
tread,

The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper, "All is
well!"

A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, and the se-
cret dread 50

Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the
bay, —

A line of black that bends and floats
On the rising tide, like a bridge of
boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and
ride,

Booted and spurred, with a heavy
stride

On the opposite shore walked Paul
Revere.

Now he patted his horse's side, 60
Now gazed at the landscape far and
near,

Then, impetuous, stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-
girth;

But mostly he watched with eager
search

The belfry-tower of the Old North
Church,

As it rose above the graves on the
hill,

Lonely and spectral and sombre and
still.

And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's
height

A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he
turns, 70

But lingers and gazes, till full on his
sight

A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in
the dark,

And beneath, from the pebbles, in
passing, a spark

Struck out by a steed flying fearless
and fleet:

That was all! And yet, through the
gloom and the light,

The fate of a nation was riding that
night;

And the spark struck out by that
steed, in his flight,

Kindled the land into flame with its
heat. 80

He has left the village and mounted
the steep,

And beneath him, tranquil and broad
and deep,

Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders that skirt its

edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the
ledge,

Is heard the tramp of his steed as he
rides.

It was twelve by the village clock,
When he crossed the bridge into Med-
ford town.

He heard the crowing of the cock,
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the damp of the river fog 90
That rises after the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into Lexington.

He saw the gilded weathercock
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,

And the meeting-house windows,
blank and bare,

Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast

At the bloody work they would look
upon. 100

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Con-
cord town.

He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the

trees,
And felt the breath of the morning
breeze

Blowing over the meadows brown.

And one was safe and asleep in his
 bed
 Who at the bridge would be first to
 fall,
 Who that day would be lying dead,
 Pierced by a British musket-ball. 110

You know the rest. In the books you
 have read,
 How the British Regulars fired and
 fled, —
 How the farmers gave them ball for
 ball,
 From behind each fence and farm-
 yard wall,
 Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
 Then crossing the fields to emerge
 again
 Under the trees at the turn of the
 road,
 And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Re-
 vere ;
 And so through the night went his cry
 of alarm 120
 To every Middlesex village and
 farm, —

A cry of defiance and not of fear,
 A voice in the darkness, a knock at
 the door,
 And a word that shall echo forever-
 more!
 For, borne on the night-wind of the
 Past,
 Through all our history, to the last,
 In the hour of darkness and peril and
 need,
 The people will waken and listen to
 hear
 The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
 And the midnight message of Paul
 Revere. 130

INTERLUDE

THE Landlord ended thus his tale,
 Then rising took down from its nail
 The sword that hung there, dim with
 dust,
 And cleaving to its sheath with rust,
 And said, "This sword was in the
 fight."
 The Poet seized it, and exclaimed,
 "It is the sword of a good knight,

"And yet, through the gloom and the light,
 The fate of a nation was riding that night"

Though homespun was his coat-of-mail;

What matter if it be not named
Joyeuse, Colada, Durindale, 10
Excalibar, or Aroundight,
Or other name the books record?
Your ancestor, who bore this sword
As Colonel of the Volunteers,
Mounted upon his old gray mare,
Seen here and there and everywhere,
To me a grander shape appears
Than old Sir William, or what not,
Clinking about in foreign lands
With iron gauntlets on his hands, 20
And on his head an iron pot!"

All laughed; the Landlord's face grew red

As his escutcheon on the wall;
He could not comprehend at all
The drift of what the Poet said;
For those who had been longest dead
Were always greatest in his eyes;
And he was speechless with surprise
To see Sir William's plumed head
Brought to a level with the rest, 30
And made the subject of a jest.
And this perceiving, to appease
The Landlord's wrath, the others' fears,

The Student said, with careless ease,
"The ladies and the cavaliers,
The arms, the loves, the courtesies,
The deeds of high emprise, I sing!
Thus Ariosto says, in words
That have the stately stride and ring
Of armed knights and clashing
swords. 40

Now listen to the tale I bring;
Listen! though not to me belong
The flowing draperies of his song,
The words that rouse, the voice that charms.

The Landlord's tale was one of arms,
Only a tale of love is mine,
Blending the human and divine,
A tale of the Decameron, told
In Palmieri's garden old,
By Fiametta, laurel-crowned, 50
While her companions lay around,
And heard the intermingled sound
Of airs that on their errands sped,
And wild birds gossiping overhead,
And lisp of leaves, and fountain's fall,
And her own voice more sweet than all,

Telling the tale, which, wanting these,
Perchance may lose its power to please."

THE STUDENT'S TALE

THE FALCON OF SER FEDERIGO

ONE summer morning, when the sun
was hot,
Weary with labor in his garden-plot,
On a rude bench beneath his cottage
eaves,
Ser Federigo sat among the leaves
Of a huge vine, that, with its arms
outspread,
Hung its delicious clusters overhead.
Below him, through the lovely valley,
flowed
The river Arno, like a winding road,
And from its banks were lifted high
in air
The spires and roofs of Florence called
the Fair; 10
To him a marble tomb, that rose above
His wasted fortunes and his buried
love.
For there, in banquet and in tourna-
ment,
His wealth had lavished been, his sub-
stance spent,
To woo and lose, since ill his wooing
sped,
Monna Giovanna, who his rival wed,
Yet ever in his fancy reigned supreme,
The ideal woman of a young man's
dream.

Then he withdrew, in poverty and
pain,
To this small farm, the last of his do-
main, 20
His only comfort and his only care
To prune his vines, and plant the fig
and pear;
His only forester and only guest
His falcon, faithful to him, when the
rest,
Whose willing hands had found so
light of yore
The brazen knocker of his palace door,
Had now no strength to lift the wood-
en latch,
That entrance gave beneath a roof of
thatch.

Companion of his solitary ways,
 Purveyor of his feasts on holidays, 30
 On him this melancholy man bestowed
 The love with which his nature over-
 flowed.

And so the empty-handed years went
 round,
 Vacant, though voiceful with pro-
 phetic sound,
 And so, that summer morn, he sat and
 mused
 With folded, patient hands, as he was
 used,
 And dreamily before his half-closed
 sight
 Floated the vision of his lost delight.
 Beside him, motionless, the drowsy
 bird
 Dreamed of the chase, and in his slum-
 ber heard 40
 The sudden, scythe-like sweep of
 wings, that dare
 The headlong plunge through eddy-
 ing gulfs of air,
 Then, starting broad awake upon his
 perch,
 Tinkled his bells, like mass-bells in a
 church,
 And looking at his master, seemed to
 say,
 "Ser Federigo, shall we hunt to-
 day?"

Ser Federigo thought not of the chase;
 The tender vision of her lovely face,
 I will not say he seems to see, he sees
 In the leaf-shadows of the trellises, 50
 Herself, yet not herself; a lovely child
 With flowing tresses, and eyes wide
 and wild,
 Coming undaunted up the garden
 walk,
 And looking not at him, but at the
 hawk.
 "Beautiful falcon!" said he, "would
 that I
 Might hold thee on my wrist, or see
 thee fly!"
 The voice was hers, and made strange
 echoes start
 Through all the haunted chambers of
 his heart,
 As an æolian harp through gusty doors
 Of some old ruin its wild music
 pours. 60

"Who is thy mother, my fair boy?"
 he said,
 His hand laid softly on that shining
 head.
 "Monna Giovanna. Will you let me
 stay
 A little while, and with your falcon
 play?
 We live there, just beyond your gar-
 den wall,
 In the great house behind the poplars
 tall."

So he spake on; and Federigo heard
 As from afar each softly uttered word,
 And drifted onward through the
 golden gleams
 And shadows of the misty sea of
 dreams, 70
 As mariners becalmed through vapors
 drift,
 And feel the sea beneath them sink
 and lift,
 And hear far off the mournful break-
 ers roar,
 And voices calling faintly from the
 shore!
 Then waking from his pleasant rever-
 ies,
 He took the little boy upon his knees,
 And told him stories of his gallant
 bird,
 Till in their friendship he became a
 third.

Monna Giovanna, widowed in her
 prime,
 Had come with friends to pass the
 summer time 80
 In her grand villa, half-way up the
 hill,
 O'erlooking Florence, but retired and
 still;
 With iron gates, that opened through
 long lines
 Of sacred ilex and centennial pines,
 And terraced gardens, and broad steps
 of stone,
 And sylvan deities, with moss o'er-
 grown,
 And fountains palpitating in the heat,
 And all Vald'Arno stretched beneath
 its feet.
 Here in seclusion, as a widow may,
 The lovely lady whiled the hours
 away, 90

Pacing in sable robes the statued hall,
 Herself the stateliest statue among all,
 And seeing more and more, with secret
 joy,
 Her husband risen and living in her
 boy,
 Till the lost sense of life returned
 again,
 Not as delight, but as relief from pain.
 Meanwhile the boy, rejoicing in his
 strength,
 Stormed down the terraces from length
 to length ;
 The screaming peacock chased in hot
 pursuit,
 And climbed the garden trellises for
 fruit. ¹⁰⁰
 But his chief pastime was to watch the
 flight,
 Of a gerfalcon, soaring into sight,
 Beyond the trees that fringed the gar-
 den wall,
 Then downward stooping at some dis-
 tant call ;
 And as he gazed full often wondered he
 Who might the master of the falcon
 be,
 Until that happy morning, when he
 found
 Master and falcon in the cottage
 ground.

And now a shadow and a terror fell
 On the great house, as if a passing-
 bell ¹¹⁰
 Tolloed from the tower, and filled each
 spacious room
 With secret awe and preternatural
 gloom ;
 The petted boy grew ill, and day by
 day
 Pined with mysterious malady away.
 The mother's heart would not be com-
 forted ;
 Her darling seemed to her already
 dead,
 And often, sitting by the sufferer's
 side,
 " What can I do to comfort thee ? "
 she cried.
 At first the silent lips made no reply,
 But, moved at length by her impor-
 tunate cry, ¹²⁰
 " Give me," he answered, with im-
 ploring tone,
 " Ser Federigo's falcon for my own ! "

No answer could the astonished mo-
 ther make ;
 How could she ask, e'en for her dar-
 ling's sake,
 Such favor at a luckless lover's hand,
 Well knowing that to ask was to com-
 mand ?
 Well knowing, what all falconers con-
 fessed,
 In all the land that falcon was the best,
 The master's pride and passion and
 delight,
 And the sole pursuivant of this poor
 knight. ¹³⁰
 But yet, for her child's sake, she could
 no less
 Than give assent, to soothe his restless-
 ness,
 So promised, and then promising to
 keep
 Her promise sacred, saw him fall
 asleep.

The morrow was a bright September
 morn ;
 The earth was beautiful as if new-
 born ;
 There was that nameless splendor
 everywhere,
 That wild exhilaration in the air,
 Which makes the passers in the city
 street
 Congratulate each other as they meet.
 Two lovely ladies, clothed in cloak
 and hood, ¹⁴¹
 Passed through the garden gate into
 the wood,
 Under the lustrous leaves, and through
 the sheen
 Of dewy sunshine showering down be-
 tween.
 The one, close-hooded, had the at-
 tractive grace
 Which sorrow sometimes lends a wo-
 man's face ;
 Her dark eyes moistened with the
 mists that roll
 From the gulf-stream of passion in the
 soul ;
 The other with her hood thrown back,
 her hair
 Making a golden glory in the air, ¹⁵⁰
 Her cheeks suffused with an auroral
 blush,
 Her young heart singing louder than
 the thrush,

So walked, that morn, through mingled light and shade,
Each by the other's presence lovelier made,
Monna Giovanna and her bosom friend,
Intent upon their errand and its end.

They found Ser Federigo at his toil,
Like banished Adam, delving in the soil;
And when he looked and these fair women spied,
The garden suddenly was glorified; ¹⁶⁰
His long-lost Eden was restored again,
And the strange river winding through the plain
No longer was the Arno to his eyes,
But the Euphrates watering Paradise!

Monna Giovanna raised her stately head,
And with fair words of salutation said:
"Ser Federigo, we come here as friends,
Hoping in this to make some poor amends
For past unkindness. I who ne'er before
Would even cross the threshold of your door, ¹⁷⁰
I who in happier days such pride maintained,
Refused your banquets, and your gifts disdained,
This morning come, a self-invited guest,
To put your generous nature to the test,
And breakfast with you under your own vine."
To which he answered: "Poor desert of mine,
Not your unkindness call it, for if aught
Is good in me of feeling or of thought,
From you it comes, and this last grace outweighs
All sorrows, all regrets of other days." ¹⁸⁰

And after further compliment and talk,
Among the asters in the garden walk
He left his guests; and to his cottage turned,
And as he entered for a moment yearned

For the lost splendors of the days of old,
The ruby glass, the silver and the gold,
And felt how piercing is the sting of pride,
By want embittered and intensified.
He looked about him for some means or way
To keep this unexpected holiday; ¹⁹⁰
Searched every cupboard, and then searched again,
Summoned the maid, who came, but came in vain;
"The Signor did not hunt to-day," she said,
"There's nothing in the house but wine and bread."
Then suddenly the drowsy falcon shook
His little bells, with that sagacious look,
Which said, as plain as language to the ear,
"If anything is wanting, I am here!"
Yes, everything is wanting, gallant bird!
The master seized thee without further word. ²⁰⁰
Like thine own lure, he whirled thee round; ah me!
The pomp and flutter of brave falconry,
The bells, the jesses, the bright scarlet hood,
The flight and the pursuit o'er field and wood,
All these forevermore are ended now;
No longer victor, but the victim thou!
Then on the board a snow-white cloth he spread,
Laid on its wooden dish the loaf of bread,
Brought purple grapes with autumn sunshine hot,
The fragrant peach, the juicy bergamot; ²¹⁰
Then in the midst a flask of wine he placed
And with autumnal flowers the banquet graced.
Ser Federigo, would not these suffice
Without thy falcon stuffed with cloves and spice?



"No longer victor, but the victim thou!"

When all was ready, and the courtly
dame
With her companion to the cottage
came,
Upon Ser Federigo's brain there fell
The wild enchantment of a magic
spell!
The room they entered, mean and low
and small,
Was changed into a sumptuous ban-
quet-hall, ²³⁰
With fanfares by aerial trumpets
blown;
The rustic chair she sat on was a
throne;
He ate celestial food, and a divine
Flavor was given to his country
wine,

And the poor falcon, fragrant with
his spice,
A peacock was, or bird of paradise!
When the repast was ended, they arose
And passed again into the garden-
close.
Then said the lady, "Far too well I
know,
Remembering still the days of long
ago, ²³⁰
Though you betray it not, with what
surprise
You see me here in this familiar wise.
You have no children, and you cannot
guess
What anguish, what unspeakable dis-
tress

A mother feels, whose child is lying
ill,
Nor how her heart anticipates his will.
And yet for this, you see me lay aside
All womanly reserve and check of
pride,
And ask the thing most precious in
your sight,
Your falcon, your sole comfort and de-
light,
Which if you find it in your heart to
give,
My poor, unhappy boy perchance may
live."

Ser Federigo listens, and replies,
With tears of love and pity in his
eyes;
"Alas, dear lady! there can be no
task
So sweet to me, as giving when you
ask.
One little hour ago, if I had known
This wish of yours, it would have
been my own.
But thinking in what manner I could
best
Do honor to the presence of my guest,
I deemed that nothing worthier could
be
Than what most dear and precious
was to me;
And so my gallant falcon breathed his
last
To furnish forth this morning our re-
past."

In mute contrition, mingled with dis-
may,
The gentle lady turned her eyes away,
Grieving that he such sacrifice should
make
And kill his falcon for a woman's sake,
Yet feeling in her heart a woman's
pride,
That nothing she could ask for was
denied;
Then took her leave, and passed out
at the gate
With footstep slow and soul disconsolate.

Three days went by, and lo! a passing-
bell
Tolled from the little chapel in the
dell;

Ten strokes Ser Federigo heard, and
said,
Breathing a prayer, "Alas! her child
is dead!"
Three months went by; and lo! a mer-
rier chime
Rang from the chapel bells at Christ-
mas-time;
The cottage was deserted, and no
more
Ser Federigo sat beside its door,
But now, with servitors to do his will,
In the grand villa, half-way up the hill,
Sat at the Christmas feast, and at his
side
Monna Giovanna, his beloved bride,
Never so beautiful, so kind, so fair,
Enthroned once more in the old rustic
chair,
High-perched upon the back of which
there stood
The image of a falcon carved in wood,
And underneath the inscription, with
a date,
"All things come round to him who
will but wait."

INTERLUDE

SOON as the story reached its end,
One, ever eager to commend,
Crowned it with injudicious praise;
And then the voice of blame found
vent,
And fanned the embers of dissent
Into a somewhat lively blaze.

The Theologian shook his head;
"These old Italian tales," he said,
"From the much-praised Decameron
down
Through all the rabble of the rest,
Are either trifling, dull, or lewd;
The gossip of a neighborhood
In some remote provincial town,
A scandalous chronicle at best!
They seem to me a stagnant fen,
Grown rank with rushes and with
reeds,
Where a white lily, now and then,
Blooms in the midst of noxious weeds
And deadly nightshade on its banks!"

To this the Student straight replied,
"For the white lily, many thanks!"

One should not say, with too much
pride,
Fountain, I will not drink of thee!
Nor were it grateful to forget
That from these reservoirs and tanks
Even imperial Shakespeare drew
His Moor of Venice, and the Jew,
And Romeo and Juliet,
And many a famous comedy."

And then another pause; and then,
Stroking his beard, he said again:
"This brings back to my memory
A story in the Talmud told,
That book of gems, that book of gold,
Of wonders many and manifold, 41
A tale that often comes to me,
And fills my heart, and haunts my brain,
And never wearies nor grows old."

"This brings back to my memory
A story in the Talmud told"

Then a long pause; till some one
said, 30
"An Angel is flying overhead!"
At these words spake the Spanish Jew,
And murmured with an inward breath:
"God grant, if what you say be true,
It may not be the Angel of Death!"

THE SPANISH JEW'S TALE

THE LEGEND OF RABBI BEN LEVI

RABBI BEN LEVI, on the Sabbath,
read
A volume of the Law, in which it said,

"No man shall look upon my face
and live."

And as he read, he prayed that God
would give

His faithful servant grace with mortal
eye

To look upon His face and yet not die.

Then fell a sudden shadow on the
page,

And, lifting up his eyes, grown dim
with age,

He saw the Angel of Death before him
stand,

Holding a naked sword in his right
hand. ¹⁰

Rabbi Ben Levi was a righteous man,
Yet through his veins a chill of terror
ran

With trembling voice he said, "What
wilt thou here?"

The Angel answered, "Lo! the time
draws near

When thou must die; yet first, by
God's decree,

Whate'er thou askest shall be granted
thee."

Replied the Rabbi, "Let these living
eyes

First look upon my place in Paradise."

Then said the Angel, "Come with me
and look."

Rabbi Ben Levi closed the sacred book,
And rising, and uplifting his gray
head, ²¹

"Give me thy sword," he to the An-
gel said,

"Lest thou shouldst fall upon me by
the way."

The Angel smiled and hastened to
obey,

Then led him forth to the Celestial
Town,

And set him on the wall, whence, gaz-
ing down,

Rabbi Ben Levi, with his living eyes,
Might look upon his place in Paradise.

Then straight into the city of the Lord
The Rabbi leaped with the Death-
Angel's sword, ³⁰

And through the streets there swept a
sudden breath

Of something there unknown, which
men call death.

Meanwhile the Angel stayed without,
and cried,

"Come back!" To which the Rabbi's
voice replied,

"No! in the name of God, whom I
adore,

I swear that hence I will depart no
more!"

Then all the Angels cried, "O Holy
One,

See what the son of Levi here hath
done!

The kingdom of Heaven he takes by
violence,

And in Thy name refuses to go hence!"

The Lord replied, "My Angels, be not
wroth;

Did e'er the son of Levi break his
oath? ⁴¹

Let him remain; for he with mortal
eye

Shall look upon my face and yet not
die."

Beyond the outer wall the Angel of
Death

Heard the great voice, and said, with
panting breath,

"Give back the sword, and let me go
my way,"

Whereat the Rabbi paused, and an-
swered, "Nay!

Anguish enough already hath it caused
Among the sons of men." And while

he paused ⁵⁰

He heard the awful mandate of the
Lord

Resounding through the air, "Give
back the sword!"

The Rabbi bowed his head in silent
prayer,

Then said he to the dreadful Angel,
"Swear

No human eye shall look on it again;
But when thou takest away the souls

of men,
Thyself unseen, and with an unseen

sword,
Thou wilt perform the bidding of the

Lord."

The Angel took the sword again, and
swore,

And walks on earth unseen forever
more. ⁶⁰

INTERLUDE

He ended : and a kind of spell
 Upon the silent listeners fell.
 His solemn manner and his words
 Had touched the deep, mysterious
 chords
 That vibrate in each human breast
 Alike, but not alike confessed.
 The spiritual world seemed near ;
 And close above them, full of fear,
 Its awful adumbration passed,
 A luminous shadow, vague and vast. 10
 They almost feared to look, lest there,
 Embodied from the impalpable air,
 They might behold the Angel stand,
 Holding the sword in his right hand.

At last, but in a voice subdued,
 Not to disturb their dreamy mood,
 Said the Sicilian : " While you spoke,
 Telling your legend marvellous,
 Suddenly in my memory woke
 The thought of one, now gone from
 us, — 20

An old Abatè, meek and mild,
 My friend and teacher, when a child,
 Who sometimes in those days of old
 The legend of an Angel told,
 Which ran, as I remember, thus."

THE SICILIAN'S TALE

KING ROBERT OF SICILY

ROBERT of Sicily, brother of Pope
 Urbane
 And Valmond, Emperor of Allemaine,
 Apparell'd in magnificent attire,
 With retinue of many a knight and
 squire,
 On St. John's eve, at vespers, proudly
 sat
 And heard the priests chant the Mag-
 nificat.
 And as he listened, o'er and o'er again
 Repeated, like a burden or refrain,
 He caught the words, "*Deposuit po-
 tentes*
De sede, et exaltavit humiles ;" 10
 And slowly lifting up his kingly head
 He to a learned clerk beside him said,
 " What mean these words ? " The
 clerk made answer meet,
 " He has put down the mighty from
 their seat,

And has exalted them of low degree."
 Thereat King Robert muttered scorn-
 fully,

" 'T is well that such seditious words
 are sung

Only by priests and in the Latin tongue ;
 For unto priests and people be it
 known

There is no power can push me from
 my throne ! " 20

And leaning back, he yawned and fell
 asleep,

Lulled by the chant monotonous and
 deep.

When he awoke, it was already night ;
 The church was empty, and there was
 no light, '

Save where the lamps, that glimmered
 few and faint,

Lighted a little space before some saint.
 He started from his seat and gazed
 around,

But saw no living thing and heard no
 sound.

He groped towards the door, but it
 was locked ;

He cried aloud, and listened, and then
 knocked, 30

And uttered awful threatenings and
 complaints,

And imprecations upon men and saints.
 The sounds reëchoed from the roof
 and walls

As if dead priests were laughing in
 their stalls.

At length the sexton, hearing from
 without

The tumult of the knocking and the
 shout,

And thinking thieves were in the
 house of prayer,

Came with his lantern, asking, " Who
 is there ? "

Half choked with rage, King Robert
 fiercely said,

" Open : 't is I, the King ! Art thou
 afraid ? " 40

The frightened sexton, muttering,
 with a curse,

" This is some drunken vagabond, or
 worse ! "

Turned the great key and flung the
 portal wide ;

A man rushed by him at a single
 stride,

Haggard, half naked, without hat or
cloak,
Who neither turned, nor looked at
him, nor spoke,
But leaped into the blackness of the
night,
And vanished like a spectre from his
sight.

Robert of Sicily, brother of Pope Ur-
bane
And Valmond, Emperor of Allemaine,
Despoiled of his magnificent attire, 51
Bareheaded, breathless, and besprent
with mire,
With sense of wrong and outrage
desperate,
Strode on and thundered at the palace
gate;
Rushed through the courtyard, thrust-
ing in his rage
To right and left each seneschal and
page,
And hurried up the broad and sound-
ing stair,
His white face ghastly in the torches'
glare.
From hall to hall he passed with breath-
less speed;
Voices and cries he heard, but did not
heed, 60
Until at last he reached the banquet-
room,
Blazing with light, and breathing with
perfume.

There on the dais sat another king,
Wearing his robes, his crown, his sig-
net-ring,
King Robert's self in features, form,
and height,
But all transfigured with angelic light!
It was an Angel; and his presence there
With a divine effulgence filled the air,
An exaltation, piercing the disguise,
Though none the hidden Angel recog-
nize. 70

A moment speechless, motionless,
amazed,
The throneless monarch on the Angel
gazed,
Who met his look of anger and sur-
prise
With the divine compassion of his
eyes;

Then said, "Who art thou? and why
com'st thou here?"
To which King Robert answered with
a sneer,
"I am the King, and come to claim
my own
From an impostor, who usurps my
throne!"
And suddenly, at these audacious
words,
Up sprang the angry guests, and drew
their swords; 80
The Angel answered, with unruffled
brow,
"Nay, not the King, but the King's
Jester, thou
Henceforth shalt wear the bells and
scaloped cape,
And for thy counsellor shalt lead an
ape;
Thou shalt obey my servants when
they call,
And wait upon my henchmen in the
hall!"

Deaf to King Robert's threats and
cries and prayers,
They thrust him from the hall and
down the stairs;
A group of tittering pages ran before,
And as they opened wide the folding-
door, 90
His heart failed, for he heard, with
strange alarms,
The boisterous laughter of the men-
at-arms,
And all the vaulted chamber roar and
ring
With the mock plaudits of "Long live
the King!"

Next morning, waking with the day's
first beam,
He said within himself, "It was a
dream!"
But the straw rustled as he turned his
head,
There were the cap and bells beside
his bed,
Around him rose the bare, discolored
walls,
Close by, the steeds were champing
in their stalls, 100
And in the corner, a revolting shape,
Shivering and chattering sat the
wretched ape.

It was no dream ; the world he loved
so much
Had turned to dust and ashes at his
touch !

Days came and went ; and now re-
turned again
To Sicily the old Saturnian reign ;
Under the Angel's governance benign
The happy island danced with corn
and wine,
And deep within the mountain's burn-
ing breast
Enceladus, the giant, was at rest. 110

Meanwhile King Robert yielded to his
fate,
Sullen and silent and disconsolate.
Dressed in the motley garb that Jest-
ers wear,
With look bewildered and a vacant
stare,
Close shaven above the ears, as monks
are shorn,
By courtiers mocked, by pages
laughed to scorn,
His only friend the ape, his only food
What others left, — he still was un-
subdued.
And when the Angel met him on his
way,
And half in earnest, half in jest,
would say, 120
Sternly, though tenderly, that he
might feel
The velvet scabbard held a sword of
steel,
“ Art thou the King ? ” the passion of
his woe
Burst from him in resistless overflow,
And, lifting high his forehead, he
would fling
The haughty answer back, “ I am, I
am the King ! ”

Almost three years were ended ; when
there came
Ambassadors of great repute and name
From Valmond, Emperor of Alle-
maine,
Unto King Robert, saying that Pope
Urbane 130
By letter summoned them forthwith
to come
On Holy Thursday to his city of
Rome.

The Angel with great joy received his
guests,
And gave them presents of embroid-
ered vests,
And velvet mantles with rich ermine
lined,
And rings and jewels of the rarest
kind.
Then he departed with them o'er the
sea
Into the lovely land of Italy,
Whose loveliness was more resplen-
dent made
By the mere passing of that caval-
cade, 140
With plumes, and cloaks, and hous-
ings, and the stir
Of jewelled bridle and of golden
spur.
And lo ! among the menials, in mock
state,
Upon a piebald steed, with shambling
gait,
His cloak of fox-tails flapping in the
wind,
The solemn ape demurely perched be-
hind,
King Robert rode, making huge mer-
riment
In all the country towns through
which they went.

The Pope received them with great
pomp and blare
Of bannered trumpets, on Saint Peter's
square, 150
Giving his benediction and embrace,
Fervent, and full of apostolic grace.
While with congratulations and with
prayers
He entertained the Angel unawares,
Robert, the Jester, bursting through
the crowd,
Into their presence rushed, and cried
aloud,
“ I am the King ! Look, and behold
in me
Robert, your brother, King of Sic-
ily !
This man, who wears my semblance to
your eyes,
Is an impostor in a king's disguise. 160
Do you not know me ? does no voice
within
Answer my cry, and say we are
akin ? ”

" . . . Within Palermo's wall "

The Pope in silence, but with troubled
mien,
Gazed at the Angel's countenance serene;
The Emperor, laughing, said, " It is
strange sport
To keep a madman for thy Fool at
court!"
And the poor, baffled Jester in disgrace
Was hustled back among the populace.
In solemn state the Holy Week went
by,
And Easter Sunday gleamed upon the
sky;
The presence of the Angel, with its
light,
Before the sun rose, made the city
bright,
And with new fervor filled the hearts
of men,
Who felt that Christ indeed had risen
again.

Even the Jester, on his bed of straw,
With haggard eyes the unwonted
splendor saw,
He felt within a power unfelt before,
And, kneeling humbly on his chamber
floor,
He heard the rushing garments of the
Lord
Sweep through the silent air, ascending
heavenward. 180
And now the visit ending, and once
more
Valmond returning to the Danube's
shore,
Homeward the Angel journeyed, and
again
The land was made resplendent with
his train,
Flashing along the towns of Italy
Unto Salerno, and from thence by
sea.

And when once more within Palermo's
wall,
And, seated on the throne in his great
hall,
He heard the Angelus from convent
towers,
As if the better world conversed with
ours,
He beckoned to King Robert to draw
nigher,
And with a gesture bade the rest re-
tire ;
And when they were alone, the Angel
said,
"Art thou the King?" Then, bow-
ing down his head,
King Robert crossed both hands upon
his breast,
And meekly answered him: "Thou
knowest best!
My sins as scarlet are; let me go hence,
And in some cloister's school of peni-
tence,
Across those stones, that pave the
way to heaven,
Walk barefoot, till my guilty soul be
shriven!"

The Angel smiled, and from his ra-
diant face
A holy light illumined all the place,
And through the open window, loud
and clear,
They heard the monks chant in the
Abochapel near,
Above the stir and tumult of the street:
"He has put down the mighty from
their seat,
And has exalted them of low degree!"
And through the chant a second mel-
ody
Rose like the throbbing of a single
string:
"I am an Angel, and thou art the
King!"

King Robert, who was standing near
the throne,
Lifted his eyes, and lo! he was alone!
But all apparelled as in days of old,
With ermined mantle and with cloth of
gold;
And when his courtiers came, they
found him there
Kneeling upon the floor, absorbed in
silent prayer.

INTERLUDE

AND then the blue-eyed Norseman
told
A Saga of the days of old.
"There is," said he, "a wondrous
book
Of Legends in the old Norse tongue,
Of the dead kings of Norroway, —
Legends that once were told or sung
In many a smoky fireside nook
Of Iceland, in the ancient day,
By wandering Saga-man or Scald;
'Heimskringla' is the volume called;
And he who looks may find therein
The story that I now begin."

And in each pause the story made
Upon his violin he played,
As an appropriate interlude,
Fragments of old Norwegian tunes
That bound in one the separate runes,
And held the mind in perfect mood,
Entwining and encircling all
The strange and antiquated rhymes
With melodies of olden times;
As over some half-ruined wall,
Disjointed and about to fall,
Fresh woodbines climb and interlace,
And keep the loosened stones in
place.

THE MUSICIAN'S TALE

THE SAGA OF KING OLAF

I

THE CHALLENGE OF THOR

I AM the God Thor,
I am the War God,
I am the Thunderer!
Here in my Northland,
My fastness and fortress,
Reign I forever!

Here amid icebergs
Rule I the nations;
This is my hammer,
Miölner the mighty;
Giants and sorcerers
Cannot withstand it!

These are the gauntlets
Wherewith I wield it,

"Here amid icebergs
Rule I the nations"

And hurl it afar off ;
This is my girdle ;
Whenever I brace it,
Strength is redoubled !

The light thou beholdest
Stream through the heavens, 20
In flashes of crimson,
Is but my red beard
Blown by the night-wind,
Affrighting the nations !

Jove is my brother ;
Mine eyes are the lightning ;
The wheels of my chariot
Roll in the thunder,
The blows of my hammer
Ring in the earthquake !

Force rules the world still,
Has ruled it, shall rule it ;
Meekness is weakness,
Strength is triumphant,
Over the whole earth
Still is it Thor's-Day !

Thou art a God too,
O Galilean !

And thus single-handed
Unto the combat, 40
Gauntlet or Gospel,
Here I defy thee !

II

KING OLAF'S RETURN

And King Olaf heard the cry,
Saw the red light in the sky,
Laid his hand upon his sword,
As he leaned upon the railing,
And his ships went sailing, sailing
Northward into Drontheim fiord.

30 There he stood as one who dreamed :
And the red light glanced and
gleamed 50

On the armor that he wore ;
And he shouted, as the rifted
Streamers o'er him shook and shifted,
" I accept thy challenge, Thor ! "

To avenge his father slain,
And reconquer realm and reign,
Came the youthful Olaf home,

Through the midnight sailing, sailing,
Listening to the wild wind's wailing,
And the dashing of the foam. 60

To his thoughts the sacred name
Of his mother Astrid came,
And the tale she oft had told
Of her flight by secret passes
Through the mountains and morasses,
To the home of Hakon old.

Then strange memories crowded back
Of Queen Gunhild's wrath and wrack,
And a hurried flight by sea;
Of grim Vikings, and the rapture 70
Of the sea fight, and the capture,
And the life of slavery.

How a stranger watched his face
In the Esthonian market-place,
Scanned his features one by one,
Saying, "We should know each
other;
I am Sigurd, Astrid's brother,
Thou art Olaf, Astrid's son!"

Then as Queen Allogia's page,
Old in honors, young in age, 80
Chief of all her men-at-arms;
Till vague whispers, and mysterious,
Reached King Valdemar, the imperi-
ous,
Filling him with strange alarms.

Then his cruisings o'er the seas,
Westward to the Hebrides
And to Scilly's rocky shore;
And the hermit's cavern dismal,
Christ's great name and rites baptis-
mal
In the ocean's rush and roar. 90

All these thoughts of love and strife
Glimmered through his lurid life,
As the stars' intenser light
Through the red flames o'er him trail-
ing,
As his ships went sailing, sailing
Northward in the summer night.

Trained for either camp or court,
Skilful in each manly sport,
Young and beautiful and tall;
Art of warfare, craft of chases, 100
Swimming, skating, snow-shoe races,
Excellent alike in all.

When at sea, with all his rowers,
He along the bending oars
Outside of his ship could run.
He the Smalsor Horn ascended,
And his shining shield suspended
On its summit, like a sun.

On the ship-rails he could stand,
Wield his sword with either hand, 110
And at once two javelins throw;
At all feasts where ale was strongest
Sat the merry monarch longest,
First to come and last to go.

Norway never yet had seen
One so beautiful of mien,
One so royal in attire,
When in arms completely furnished,
Harness gold-inlaid and burnished,
Mantle like a flame of fire. 120

Thus came Olaf to his own,
When upon the night-wind blown
Passed that cry along the shore:
And he answered, while the rifted
Streamers o'er him shook and shifted,
"I accept thy challenge, Thor!"

III

THORA OF RIMOL

"Thora of Rimol! hide me! hide
me!
Danger and shame and death betide
me!
For Olaf the King is hunting me
down
Through field and forest, through
thorp and town!" 130
Thus cried Jarl Hakon
To Thora, the fairest of women.

"Hakon Jarl! for the love I bear
thee
Neither shall shame nor death come
near thee!
But the hiding-place wherein thou
must lie
Is the cave underneath the swine in
the sty."
Thus to Jarl Hakon
Said Thora, the fairest of wo-
men.

So Hakon Jarl and his base thrall
 Karker
 Crouched in the cave, than a dungeon
 darker,¹⁴⁰
 As Olaf came riding, with men in
 mail,
 Through the forest roads into Orka-
 dale,
 Demanding Jarl Hakon
 Of Thora, the fairest of women.

"Rich and honored shall be whoever
 The head of Hakon Jarl shall dis-
 sever!"
 Hakon heard him, and Karker the
 slave,
 Through the breathing-holes of the
 darksome cave.
 Alone in her chamber
 Wept Thora, the fairest of wo-
 men.¹⁵⁰

Said Karker, the crafty, "I will not
 slay thee!
 For all the king's gold I will never
 betray thee!"
 "Then why dost thou turn so pale, O
 churl,
 And then again black as the earth?"
 said the Earl.
 More pale and more faithful
 Was Thora, the fairest of wo-
 men.

From a dream in the night the thrall
 started, saying,
 "Round my neck a gold ring King
 Olaf was laying!"
 And Hakon answered, "Beware of
 the king!
 He will lay round thy neck a blood-
 red ring."¹⁶⁰
 At the ring on her finger
 Gazed Thora, the fairest of wo-
 men.

At daybreak slept Hakon, with sorrows
 encumbered,
 But screamed and drew up his feet as
 he slumbered;
 The thrall in the darkness plunged
 with his knife,
 And the Earl awakened no more in
 this life.
 But wakeful and weeping
 Sat Thora, the fairest of women.

At Nidarholm the priests are all sing-
 ing,
 Two ghastly heads on the gibbet are
 swinging;¹⁷⁰
 One is Jarl Hakon's and one is his
 thrall's,
 And the people are shouting from
 windows and walls;
 While alone in her chamber
 Swoons Thora, the fairest of wo-
 men.

IV

QUEEN SIGRID THE HAUGHTY

Queen Sigrid the Haughty sat proud
 and aloft
 In her chamber, that looked over
 meadow and croft.
 Heart's dearest,
 Why dost thou sorrow so?

The floor with tassels of fir was be-
 sprent,
 Filling the room with their fragrant
 scent.¹⁸⁰

She heard the birds sing, she saw the
 sun shine,
 The air of summer was sweeter than
 wine.

Like a sword without scabbard the
 bright river lay
 Between her own kingdom and Norro-
 way.

But Olaf the King had sued for her
 hand,
 The sword would be sheathed, the
 river be spanned.

Her maidens were seated around her
 knee,
 Working bright figures in tapestry.

And one was singing the ancient
 rune
 Of Brynhilda's love and the wrath of
 Gudrun.¹⁹⁰

And through it, and round it, and over
 it all
 Sounded incessant the waterfall.

The Queen in her hand held a ring of
gold,
From the door of Ladé's Temple old.

King Olaf had sent her this wedding
gift,
But her thoughts as arrows were keen
and swift.

She had given the ring to her gold-
smiths twain,
Who smiled, as they handed it back
again.

And Sigrid the Queen, in her haughty
way,
Said, "Why do you smile, my gold-
smiths, say?" 200

And they answered: "O Queen! if the
truth must be told,
The ring is of copper, and not of
gold!"

The lightning flashed o'er her forehead
and cheek,
She only murmured, she did not speak:

"If in his gifts he can faithless be,
There will be no gold in his love to
me."

A footstep was heard on the outer
stair,
And in strode King Olaf with royal
air.

He kissed the Queen's hand, and he
whispered of love,
And swore to be true as the stars are
above. 210

But she smiled with contempt as she
answered: "O king,
Will you swear it, as Odin once swore,
on the ring?"

And the King: "Oh, speak not of Odin
to me,
The wife of King Olaf a Christian
must be."

Looking straight at the King, with her
level brows,
She said, "I keep true to my faith and
my vows."

Then the face of King Olaf was dark-
ened with gloom,
He rose in his anger and strode through
the room.

"Why, then, should I care to have
thee?" he said, —
"A faded old woman, a heathenish
jade!" 220

His zeal was stronger than fear or love,
And he struck the Queen in the face
with his glove.

Then forth from the chamber in anger
he fled,
And the wooden stairway shook with
his tread.

Queen Sigrid the Haughty said under
her breath,
"This insult, King Olaf, shall be thy
death!"
Heart's dearest,
Why dost thou sorrow so?

V

THE SKERRY OF SHRIEKS

Now from all King Olaf's farms
His men-at-arms 230
Gathered on the Eve of Easter;
To his house at Angvalds-ness
Fast they press,
Drinking with the royal feaster.

Loudly through the wide-flung door
Came the roar
Of the sea upon the Skerry;
And its thunder loud and near
Reached the ear,
Mingling with their voices merry. 240

"Hark!" said Olaf to his Scald,
Halfred the Bald,
"Listen to that song, and learn it!
Half my kingdom would I give,
As I live,
If by such songs you would earn it!

"For of all the runes and rhymes
Of all times,
Best I like the ocean's dirges,

When the old harper heaves and
rocks, 250
His hoary locks
Flowing and flashing in the surges!"

Halfred answered: "I am called
The Unappalled!
Nothing hinders me or daunts me.
Hearken to me, then, O King,
While I sing
The great Ocean Song that haunts me."

"I will hear your song sublime
Some other time." 260
Says the drowsy monarch, yawning,
And retires; each laughing guest
Applauds the jest;
Then they sleep till day is dawning.

Pacing up and down the yard,
King Olaf's guard
Saw the sea-mist slowly creeping
O'er the sands, and up the hill,
Gathering still
Round the house where they were
sleeping. 270

It was not the fog he saw
Nor misty flaw,
That above the landscape brooded;
It was Eyvind Kallda's crew
Of warlocks blue
With their caps of darkness hooded!

Round and round the house they go,
Weaving slow
Magic circles to encumber
And imprison in their ring 280
Olaf the King,
As he helpless lies in slumber.

Then athwart the vapors dun
The Easter sun
Streamed with one broad track of
splendor!
In their real forms appeared
The warlocks weird,
Awful as the Witch of Endor.

Blinded by the light that glared,
They groped and stared, 290
Round about with steps unsteady;
From his window Olaf gazed,
And, amazed,
"Who are these strange people?"
said he.

"Eyvind Kallda and his men!"
Answered then
From the yard a sturdy farmer;
While the men-at-arms apace
Filled the place,
Busily buckling on their armor. 300

From the gates they sallied forth,
South and north,
Scoured the island coast around them,
Seizing all the warlock band,
Foot and hand
On the Skerry's rocks they bound
them.

And at eve the king again
Called his train,
And, with all the candles burning,
Silent sat and heard once more 310
The sullen roar
Of the ocean tides returning.

Shrieks and cries of wild despair
Filled the air,
Growing fainter as they listened;
Then the bursting surge alone
Sounded on;—
Thus the sorcerers were christened!

"Sing, O Scald, your song sublime,
Your ocean-rhyme," 320
Cried King Olaf: "it will cheer me!"
Said the Scald, with pallid cheeks,
"The Skerry of Shrieks
Sings too loud for you to hear me!"

VI

THE WRAITH OF ODIN

The guests were loud, the ale was
strong,
King Olaf feasted late and long;
The hoary Scalds together sang;
O'erhead the smoky rafters rang.
Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

The door swung wide, with creak and
din; 330
A blast of cold night-air came in,
And on the threshold shivering stood
A one-eyed guest, with cloak and
hood.
Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

... "on the threshold shivering stood
A one-eyed guest, with cloak and hood"

The King exclaimed, "O graybeard
pale!

Come warm thee with this cup of ale."

The foaming draught the old man
quaffed,

The noisy guests looked on and
laughed.

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

Then spake the King: "Be not
afraid: 340

Sit here by me." The guest obeyed,

And, seated at the table, told

Tales of the sea, and Sagas old.

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

And ever, when the tale was o'er,

The King demanded yet one more:

Till Sigurd the Bishop smiling said,

"'T is late, O King, and time for bed"

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

The King retired; the stranger guest
Followed and entered with the rest;

The lights were out, the pages gone,
But still the garrulous guest spake
on.

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

As one who from a volume reads,
He spake of heroes and their deeds,
Of lands and cities he had seen,
And stormy gulfs that tossed be-
tween.

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

Then from his lips in music rolled 360
The Havamal of Odin old,
With sounds mysterious as the roar
Of billows on a distant shore.

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

"Do we not learn from runes and
rhymes

Made by the gods in elder times,
And do not still the great Scalds teach
That silence better is than speech?"

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

Smiling at this, the King replied, 370
 "Thy lore is by thy tongue belied;
 For never was I so enthralled
 Either by Saga-man or Scald."

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogel-
 sang.

The Bishop said, "Late hours we
 keep!
 Night wanes, O King! 't is time for
 sleep!"

Then slept the King, and when he
 woke

The guest was gone, the morning
 broke. 378

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

They found the doors securely barred,
 They found the watch-dog in the yard,
 There was no footprint in the grass,
 And none had seen the stranger pass.

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogel-
 sang.

King Olaf crossed himself and said:
 "I know that Odin the Great is dead;
 Sure is the triumph of our Faith,
 The one-eyed stranger was his wraith."

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang.

VII

IRON-BEARD

Olaf the King, one summer morn,
 Blew a blast on his bugle-horn, 391
 Sending his signal through the land of
 Drontheim.

And to the Hus-Ting held at Mere
 Gathered the farmers far and near,
 With their war weapons ready to con-
 front him.

Ploughing under the morning star,
 Old Iron-Beard in Yriar
 Heard the summons, chuckling with a
 low laugh.

He wiped the sweat-drops from his
 brow,
 Unharnessed his horses from the
 plough, 400
 And clattering came on horseback to
 King Olaf.

He was the churliest of the churls;
 Little he cared for king or earls;
 Bitter as home-brewed ale were his
 foaming passions.

Hodden-gray was the garb he wore,
 And by the Hammer of Thor he
 swore;
 He hated the narrow town, and all its
 fashions.

But he loved the freedom of his
 farm,
 His ale at night, by the fireside
 warm,
 Gudrun his daughter, with her flaxen
 tresses. 410

He loved his horses and his herds,
 The smell of the earth, and the song
 of birds,
 His well-filled barns, his brook with
 its watercresses.

Huge and cumbersome was his
 frame;
 His beard, from which he took his
 name,
 Frosty and fierce, like that of Hymer
 the Giant.

So at the Hus-Ting he appeared,
 The farmer of Yriar, Iron-Beard,
 On horseback, in an attitude defiant.

And to King Olaf he cried aloud, 420
 Out of the middle of the crowd,
 That tossed about him like a stormy
 ocean:

"Such sacrifices shalt thou bring
 To Odin and to Thor, O King,
 As other kings have done in their de-
 votion!"

King Olaf answered: "I command
 This land to be a Christian land;
 Here is my Bishop who the folk bap-
 tizes!"

"But if you ask me to restore
 Your sacrifices, stained with gore.
 Then will I offer human sacrifices! 431

"Not slaves and peasants shall they
 be,

But men of note and high degree,
Such men as Orm of Lyra and Kar
of Gryting !”

Then to their Temple strode he in,
And loud behind him heard the din
Of his men-at-arms and the peasants
fiercely fighting.

There in the Temple, carved in
wood,
The image of great Odin stood,
And other gods, with Thor supreme
among them. 440

King Olaf smote them with the
blade

Of his huge war-axe, gold inlaid,
And downward shattered to the pave-
ment flung them.

At the same moment rose without,
From the contending crowd, a shout,
A mingled sound of triumph and of
wailing.

And there upon the trampled plain
The farmer Iron-Beard lay slain,
Midway between the assailed and the
assailing.

King Olaf from the doorway spoke:
“Choose ye between two things, my
folk, 451

To be baptized or given up to slaughter ! ”

And seeing their leader stark and dead,
The people with a murmur said,
“ O King, baptize us with thy holy water.”

So all the Drontheim land became
A Christian land in name and fame,
In the old gods no more believing and trusting.

And as a blood-atonement, soon
King Olaf wed the fair Gudrun ; 460
And thus in peace ended the Drontheim Hus-Ting!

VIII

GUDRUN

On King Olaf's bridal night
Shines the moon with tender light,
And across the chamber streams
Its tide of dreams.

At the fatal midnight hour,
When all evil things have power,
In the glimmer of the moon
Stands Gudrun.

Close against her heaving breast 470
Something in her hand is pressed ;
Like an icicle, its sheen
Is cold and keen.

On the cairn are fixed her eyes
Where her murdered father lies,
And a voice remote and drear
She seems to hear.

What a bridal night is this !
Cold will be the dagger's kiss ;
Laden with the chill of death 480
Is its breath.

Like the drifting snow she sweeps
To the couch where Olaf sleeps ;
Suddenly he wakes and stirs,
His eyes meet hers.

“ What is that,” King Olaf said,
“ Gleams so bright above my head ?

Wherefore standest thou so white
In pale moonlight ? ”

“ 'T is the bodkin that I wear 490
When at night I bind my hair ;
It woke me falling on the floor ;
'T is nothing more.”

“ Forests have ears, and fields have eyes ;
Often treachery lurking lies
Underneath the fairest hair !
Gudrun beware ! ”

Ere the earliest peep of morn
Blew King Olaf's bugle-horn ;
And forever sundered ride 500
Bridegroom and bride !

IX

THANGBRAND THE PRIEST

Short of stature, large of limb,
Burly face and russet beard,
All the women stared at him,
When in Iceland he appeared.
“ Look ! ” they said,
With nodding head,
“ There goes Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.”

All the prayers he knew by rote,
He could preach like Chrysostome,
From the Fathers he could quote, 510
He had even been at Rome.
A learned clerk,
A man of mark,
Was this Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.

He was quarrelsome and loud,
And impatient of control,
Boisterous in the market crowd,
Boisterous at the wassail-bowl,
Everywhere 520
Would drink and swear,
Swaggering Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.

In his house this malcontent
Could the King no longer bear,
So to Iceland he was sent
To convert the heathen there,
And away
One summer day
Sailed this Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.

There in Iceland, o'er their books 530
 Pored the people day and night,
 But he did not like their looks,
 Nor the songs they used to write.
 "All this rhyme
 Is waste of time!"
 Grumbled Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.
 To the alehouse, where he sat

When three women and one goose
 Make a market in your town!"
 Every Scald
 Satires drawled
 On poor Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.
 Something worse they did than that;
 And what vexed him most of all

"Swaggering Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest"

All the folk in Altafjord
 Boasted of their island grand;
 Saying in a single word,
 "Iceland is the finest land
 That the sun
 Doth shine upon!"
 Loud laughed Thangbrand, Olaf's
 Priest. 530

And he answered: "What's the use
 Of this bragging up and down,

Was a figure in shovel hat, 560
 Drawn in charcoal on the wall;
 With words that go
 Sprawling below,
 "This is Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest."

Hardly knowing what he did,
 Then he smote them might and
 main,
 Thorvale Veile and Veterlid
 Lay there in the alehouse slain.

"To-day we are gold,
To-morrow mould!" 570
Muttered Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.

Much in fear of axe and rope,
Back to Norway sailed he then.
"O King Olaf! little hope
Is there of these Iceland men!"
Meekly said,
With bending head,
Pious Thangbrand, Olaf's Priest.

X

RAUD THE STRONG

"All the old gods are dead,
All the wild warlocks fled; 580
But the White Christ lives and reigns,
And throughout my wide domains
His Gospel shall be spread!"
On the Evangelists
Thus swore King Olaf.

But still in dreams of the night
Beheld he the crimson light,
And heard the voice that defied
Him who was crucified,
And challenged him to the fight. 590
To Sigurd the Bishop
King Olaf confessed it.

And Sigurd the Bishop said,
"The old gods are not dead,
For the great Thor still reigns,
And among the Jarls and Thaness
The old witchcraft still is spread."
Thus to King Olaf
Said Sigurd the Bishop.

"Far north in the Salten Fiord, 600
By rapine, fire, and sword,
Lives the Viking, Raud the Strong:
All the Godoe Isles belong
To him and his heathen horde."
Thus went on speaking
Sigurd the Bishop.

"A warlock, a wizard is he,
And the lord of the wind and the sea;
And whichever way he sails,
He has ever favoring gales, 610
By his craft in sorcery."
Here the sign of the cross
Made devoutly King Olaf.

"With rites that we both abhor,
He worships Odin and Thor;
So it cannot yet be said,
That all the old gods are dead,
And the warlocks are no more."
Flushing with anger
Said Sigurd the Bishop. 620

Then King Olaf cried aloud:
"I will talk with this mighty Raud,
And along the Salten Fiord
Preach the Gospel with my sword,
Or be brought back in my shroud!"
So northward from Drontheim
Sailed King Olaf!

XI

BISHOP SIGURD OF SALTEN FIORD

Loud the angry wind was wailing
As King Olaf's ships came sailing
Northward out of Drontheim haven
To the mouth of Salten Fiord. 630

Though the flying sea-spray drenches
Fore and aft the rowers' benches,
Not a single heart is craven
Of the champions there on board.

All without the Fiord was quiet,
But within it storm and riot,
Such as on his Viking cruises
Raud the Strong was wont to ride.

And the sea through all its tide-ways
Swept the reeling vessels sideways,
As the leaves are swept through
sluices, 640
When the flood-gates open wide.

"'T is the warlock! 't is the demon
Raud!" cried Sigurd to the seamen;
"But the Lord is not affrighted
By the witchcraft of his foes."

To the ship's bow he ascended,
By his choristers attended,
Round him were the tapers lighted, 650
And the sacred incense rose.

On the bow stood Bishop Sigurd,
In his robes, as one transfigured,
And the Crucifix he planted
High amid the rain and mist.

Then with holy water sprinkled
All the ship; the mass-bells tinkled :
Loud the monks around him chanted,
Loud he read the Evangelist.

As into the Fiord they darted, 660
On each side the water parted ;
Down a path like silver molten
Steadily rowed King Olaf's ships;

Steadily burned all night the tapers,
And the White Christ through the
vapors
Gleamed across the Fiord of Salten,
As through John's Apocalypse, —

Till at last they reached Raud's dwell-
ing
On the little isle of Gelling ;
Not a guard was at the doorway, 670
Not a glimmer of light was seen.

But at anchor, carved and gilded,
Lay the dragon-ship he buildd ;
'T was the grandest ship in Norway,
With its crest and scales of green.

Up the stairway, softly creeping,
To the loft where Raud was sleep-
ing,
With their fists they burst asunder
Bolt and bar that held the door.

Drunken with sleep and ale they
found him, 680
Dragged him from his bed and bound
him,
While he stared with stupid won-
der
At the look and garb they wore.

Then King Olaf said : " O Sea-King !
Little time have we for speaking,
Choose between the good and evil ;
Be baptized ! or thou shalt die ! "

But in scorn the heathen scoffer
Answered . " I disdain thine offer ;
Neither fear I God nor Devil ; 690
Thee and thy Gospel I defy ! "

Then between his jaws distended,
When his frantic struggles ended,
Through King Olaf's horn an adder,
Touched by fire, they forced to
glide.

Sharp his tooth was as an arrow,
As he gnawed through bone and mar-
row ;
But without a groan or shudder,
Raud the Strong blaspheming
died.

Then baptized they all that region, 700
Swarthy Lap and fair Norwegian,
Far as swims the salmon, leaping,
Up the streams of Salten Fiord.

In their temples Thor and Odin
Lay in dust and ashes trodden,
As King Olaf, onward sweeping,
Preached the Gospel with his
sword.

Then he took the carved and gilded
Dragon-ship that Raud had buildd,
And the tiller single-handed 710
Grasping, steered into the main.

Southward sailed the sea-gulls o'er
him,
Southward sailed the ship that bore
him,
Till at Drontheim haven landed
Olaf and his crew again.

XII

KING OLAF'S CHRISTMAS

At Drontheim, Olaf the King
Heard the bells of Yule-tide ring,
As he sat in his banquet-hall,
Drinking the nut-brown ale,
With his bearded Berserks hale 720
And tall.

Three days his Yule-tide feasts
He held with Bishops and Priests,
And his horn filled up to the brim ;
But the ale was never too strong,
Nor the Saga-man's tale too long,
For him.

O'er his drinking-horn, the sign
He made of the cross divine,
As he drank, and muttered his
prayers ; 730
But the Berserks evermore
Made the sign of the Hammer of Thor
Over theirs.

The gleams of the fire-light dance
Upon helmet and hauberk and lance,
And laugh in the eyes of the King;
And he cries to Halfred the Scald,
Gray-bearded, wrinkled, and bald,
"Sing!"

"Sing me a song divine, 740
With a sword in every line,
And this shall be thy reward."
And he loosened the belt at his waist,
And in front of the singer placed
His sword.

"Quern-biter of Hakon the Good,
Wherewith at a stroke he hewed
The millstone through and
through,
And Foot-breadth of Thoralf the
Strong,
Were neither so broad nor so long, 750
Nor so true."

Then the Scald took his harp and
sang,
And loud through the music rang
The sound of that shining word;
And the harp-strings a clangor made,
As if they were struck with the blade
Of a sword.

And the Berserks round about
Broke forth into a shout
That made the rafters ring: 760
They smote with their fists on the
board,
And shouted, "Long live the Sword,
And the King!"

But the King said, "O my son,
I miss the bright word in one
Of thy measures and thy rhymes."
And Halfred the Scald replied,
"In another 't was multiplied
Three times."

Then King Olaf raised the hilt 770
Of iron, cross-shaped and gilt,
And said, "Do not refuse;
Count well the gain and the loss,
Thor's hammer or Christ's cross:
Choose!"

And Halfred the Scald said, "This
In the name of the Lord I kiss,
Who on it was crucified!"

And a shout went round the board,
"In the name of Christ the Lord, 780
Who died!"

Then over the waste of snows
The noonday sun uprose,
Through the driving mists re-
vealed,
Like the lifting of the Host,
By incense-clouds almost
Concealed.

On the shining wall a vast
And shadowy cross was cast
From the hilt of the lifted sword,
And in foaming cups of ale 790
The Berserks drank "Was-hael!
To the Lord!"

XIII

THE BUILDING OF THE LONG SERPENT

Thorberg Skafting, master-builder,
In his ship-yard by the sea,
Whistling, said, "It would bewilder
Any man but Thorberg Skafting,
Any man but me!"

Near him lay the Dragon stranded,
Built of old by Raud the Strong,
And King Olaf had commanded 800
He should build another Dragon,
Twice as large and long.

Therefore whistled Thorberg Skaft-
ing,
As he sat with half-closed eyes,
And his head turned sideways, draft-
ing
That new vessel for King Olaf
Twice the Dragon's size.

Round him busily hewed and ham-
mered
Mallet huge and heavy axe; 810
Workmen laughed and sang and
clamored;
Whirred the wheels, that into rigging
Spun the shining flax!

All this tumult heard the master, —
It was music to his ear;
Fancy whispered all the faster,

"Men shall hear of Thorberg Skafting
For a hundred year!"

Workmen sweating at the forges
Fashioned iron bolt and bar, 830
Like a warlock's midnight orgies
Smoked and bubbled the black cal-
dron
With the boiling tar.

Did the warlocks mingle in it,
Thorberg Skafting, any curse?
Could you not be gone a minute
But some mischief must be doing,
Turning bad to worse?

'T was an ill wind that came wafting
From his homestead words of
woe: 830

To his farm went Thorberg Skafting,
Oft repeating to his workmen,
Build ye thus and so.

After long delays returning
Came the master back by night;
To his ship-yard longing, yearning,
Hurried he, and did not leave it
Till the morning's light.

"Come and see my ship, my darling!"
On the morrow said the King; 840
"Finished now from keel to carling;
Never yet was seen in Norway
Such a wondrous thing!"

In the ship-yard, idly talking,
At the ship the workmen stared:
Some one, all their labor balking,

"Never ship was built in Norway
Half so fine as she!"

Down her sides had cut deep gashes,
Not a plank was spared!

"Death be to the evil-doer!"
With an oath King Olaf spoke; 850
"But rewards to his pursuer!"
And with wrath his face grew redder
Than his scarlet cloak.

Straight the master-builder, smiling,
Answered thus the angry King:
"Cease blaspheming and reviling,
Olaf, it was Thorberg Skafting
Who has done this thing!"

Then he chipped and smoothed the
planking,
Till the King, delighted, swore, 860
With much lauding and much thank-
ing,
"Handsome is now my Dragon
Than she was before!"

Seventy ells and four extended
On the grass the vessel's keel;
High above it, gilt and splendid,
Rose the figure-head ferocious
With its crest of steel.

Then they launched her from the tres-
sels,
In the ship-yard by the sea; 870
She was the grandest of all vessels,
Never ship was built in Norway
Half so fine as she!

The Long Serpent was she christened,
'Mid the roar of cheer on cheer!
They who to the Saga listened
Heard the name of Thorberg Skafting
For a hundred year!

XIV

THE CREW OF THE LONG SERPENT

Safe at anchor in Drontheim bay
King Olaf's fleet assembled lay, 880
And, striped with white and blue,
Downward fluttered sail and banner,
As alights the screaming lanner;
Lustily cheered, in their wild manner,
The Long Serpent's crew.

Her forecastle man was Ulf the Red;
Like a wolf's was his shaggy head,

His teeth as large and white;
His beard, of gray and russet blended,
Round as a swallow's nest descended;
As standard-bearer he defended 890
Olaf's flag in the fight.

Near him Kolbiorn had his place,
Like the King in garb and face,
So gallant and so hale;
Every cabin-boy and varlet
Wondered at his cloak of scarlet;
Like a river, frozen and star-lit,
Gleamed his coat of mail.

By the bulkhead, tall and dark, 900
Stood Thrand Rame of Theiemark,
A figure gaunt and grand;
On his hairy arm imprinted
Was an anchor, azure-tinted;
Like Thor's hammer, huge and dinted
Was his brawny hand.

Einar Tamberskelver, bare
To the winds his golden hair,
By the mainmast stood;
Graceful was his form, and slen-
der, 910
And his eyes were deep and tender
As a woman's, in the splendor
Of her maidenhood.

In the fore-hold Biorn and Bork
Watched the sailors at their work:
Heavens! how they swore!
Thirty men they each commanded,
Iron-sinewed, horny-handed,
Shoulders broad, and chests expanded,
Tugging at the oar. 920

These, and many more like these,
With King Olaf sailed the seas,
Till the waters vast
Filled them with a vague devotion,
With the freedom and the motion,
With the roll and roar of ocean
And the sounding blast.

When they landed from the fleet,
How they roared through Drontheim's
street,
Boisterous as the gale! 930
How they laughed and stamped and
pounded,
Till the tavern roof resounded
And the host looked on astounded
As they drank the ale!

Never saw the wild North Sea
 Such a gallant company
 Sail its billows blue!
 Never, while they cruised and quar-
 relled,
 Old King Gorm, or Blue-Tooth Har-
 ald,
 Owned a ship so well apparelled, 940
 Boasted such a crew!

XV

A LITTLE BIRD IN THE AIR

A little bird in the air
 Is singing of Thyri the fair,
 The sister of Svend the Dane;
 And the song of the garrulous bird
 In the streets of the town is heard,
 And repeated again and again.
 Hoist up your sails of silk,
 And flee away from each other.

To King Burislaf, it is said, 950
 Was the beautiful Thyri wed,
 And a sorrowful bride went she;
 And after a week and a day
 She has fled away and away
 From his town by the stormy sea.
 Hoist up your sails of silk,
 And flee away from each other.

They say, that through heat and
 through cold,
 Through weald, they say, and through
 wold,

By day and by night, they say, 960
 She has fled; and the gossips report
 She has come to King Olaf's court,
 And the town is all in dismay.
 Hoist up your sails of silk,
 And flee away from each other.

It is whispered King Olaf has seen,
 Has talked with the beautiful Queen;
 And they wonder how it will end;
 For surely, if here she remain,
 It is war with King Svend the Dane,
 And King Burislaf the Vend! 971
 Hoist up your sails of silk,
 And flee away from each other.

Oh, greatest wonder of all!
 It is published in hamlet and hall,
 It roars like a flame that is fanned!

The King — yes, Olaf the King —
 Has wedded her with his ring,
 And Thyri is Queen in the land!
 Hoist up your sails of silk, 980
 And flee away from each other.

XVI

QUEEN THYRI AND THE ANGELICA
STALKS

Northward over Drottheim,
 Flew the clamorous sea-gulls,
 Sang the lark and linnet
 From the meadows green;

Weeping in her chamber,
 Lonely and unhappy,
 Sat the Drottning Thyri,
 Sat King Olaf's Queen.

In at all the windows 990
 Streamed the pleasant sunshine,
 On the roof above her
 Softly cooed the dove;

But the sound she heard not,
 Nor the sunshine heeded,
 For the thoughts of Thyri
 Were not thoughts of love.

Then King Olaf entered,
 Beautiful as morning,
 Like the sun at Easter 1000
 Shone his happy face;

In his hand he carried
 Angelicas uprooted,
 With delicious fragrance
 Filling all the place.

Like a rainy midnight
 Sat the Drottning Thyri,
 Even the smile of Olaf
 Could not cheer her gloom;

Nor the stalks he gave her 1010
 With a gracious gesture,
 And with words as pleasant
 As their own perfume.

In her hands he placed them,
 And her jewelled fingers
 Through the green leaves glistened
 Like the dew of morn;

But she cast them from her,
Haughty and indignant,
On the floor she threw them
With a look of scorn.

1020

"Richer presents," said she,
"Gave King Harald Gormson
To the Queen, my mother,
Than such worthless weeds;

"When he ravaged Norway,
Laying waste the kingdom,
Seizing scatt and treasure
For her royal needs.

"But thou darest not venture
Through the Sound to Vendland,
My domains to rescue
From King Burislaf;

1030

"Lest King Svend of Denmark,
Forkèd Beard, my brother,
Scatter all thy vessels
As the wind the chaff."

Then up sprang King Olaf,
Like a reindeer bounding,
With an oath he answered
Thus the luckless Queen:

1040

"Never yet did Olaf
Fear King Svend of Denmark;
This right hand shall hale him
By his forkèd chin!"

Then he left the chamber,
Thundering through the doorway,
Loud his steps resounded
Down the outer stair.

Smarting with the insult,
Through the streets of Drontheim
Strode he red and wrathful,
With his stately air.

1050

All his ships he gathered,
Summoned all his forces,
Making his war levy
In the region round.

Down the coast of Norway,
Like a flock of sea-gulls,
Sailed the fleet of Olaf
Through the Danish Sound.

1060

With his own hand fearless
Steered he the Long Serpent,
Strained the creaking cordage,
Bent each boom and gaff;

Till in Vendland landing,
The domains of Thyri
He redeemed and rescued
From King Burislaf.

Then said Olaf, laughing,
"Not ten yoke of oxen
Have the power to draw us
Like a woman's hair!

1070

"Now will I confess it,
Better things are jewels
Than angelica stalks are
For a queen to wear."

XVII

KING SVEND OF THE FORKÈD BEARD

Loudly the sailors cheered
Svend of the Forkèd Beard,
As with his fleet he steered
Southward to Vendland;
Where with their courses hauled
All were together called,
Under the Isle of Svald
Near to the mainland.

1080

After Queen Gunhild's death,
So the old Saga saith,
Plighted King Svend his faith
To Sigrid the Haughty;
And to avenge his bride,
Soothing her wounded pride,
Over the waters wide
King Olaf sought he.

1090

Still on her scornful face,
Blushing with deep disgrace,
Bore she the crimson trace
Of Olaf's gauntlet;
Like a malignant star,
Blazing in heaven afar,
Red shone the angry scar
Under her frontlet.

1100

Oft to King Svend she spake,
"For thine own honor's sake
Shalt thou swift vengeance take
On the vile coward!"

"For thine own honor's sake
Shalt thou swift vengeance take"

Until the King at last,
Gusty and overcast,
Like a tempestuous blast
Threatened and lowered

Soon as the Spring appeared,
Svend of the Forked Beard
High his red standard reared,
Eager for battle;
While every warlike Dane,
Seizing his arms again,
Left all unsown the grain,
Unhoused the cattle.

1110

Likewise the Swedish King
Summoned in haste a Thing,
Weapons and men to bring
In aid of Denmark;
Eric the Norseman, too,
As the war-tidings flew,
Sailed with a chosen crew
From Lapland and Finmark.

1120

So upon Easter day
Sailed the three kings away,
Out of the sheltered bay,
In the bright season;

With them Earl Sigvald came, 1130
Eager for spoil and fame ;
Pity that such a name
 Stooped to such treason !

Safe under Svald at last,
Now were their anchors cast,
Safe from the sea and blast,
 Plotted the three kings ;
While, with a base intent,
Southward Earl Sigvald went, 1140
On a foul errand bent,
 Unto the Sea-kings.

Thence to hold on his course
Unto King Olaf's force,
Lying within the hoarse
 Mouths of Stet-haven ;
Him to ensnare and bring
Unto the Danish king,
Who his dead corse would fling
 Forth to the raven !

XVIII

KING OLAF AND EARL SIGVALD

On the gray sea-sands 1150
King Olaf stands,
Northward and seaward
He points with his hands.

With eddy and whirl
The sea-tides curl,
Washing the sandals
Of Sigvald the Earl.

The mariners shout,
The ships swing about,
The yards are all hoisted, 1160
The sails flutter out.

The war-horns are played,
The anchors are weighed,
Like moths in the distance
The sails flit and fade.

The sea is like lead,
The harbor lies dead,
As a corse on the sea-shore,
Whose spirit has fled !

On that fatal day, 1170
The histories say,
Seventy vessels
Sailed out of the bay.

But soon scattered wide
O'er the billows they ride,
While Sigvald and Olaf
Sail side by side.

Cried the Earl: "Follow me !
I your pilot will be,
For I know all the channels. 1180
Where flows the deep sea !"

So into the strait
Where his foes lie in wait,
Gallant King Olaf
Sails to his fate !

Then the sea-fog veils
The ships and their sails ;
Queen Sigrid the Haughty,
Thy vengeance prevails !

XIX

KING OLAF'S WAR-HORNS

"Strike the sails!" King Olaf said ;
"Never shall men of mine take
 flight ; 1190
Never away from battle I fled,
Never away from my foes !
 Let God dispose
Of my life in the fight !"

"Sound the horns!" said Olaf the
 King ;
And suddenly through the drifting
 brume
The blare of the horns began to ring,
Like the terrible trumpet shock
 Of Ragnarock, 1200
On the Day of Doom !

Louder and louder the war-horns
 sang
Over the level floor of the flood ;
All the sails came down with a clang,
And there in the midst overhead
 The sun hung red
As a drop of blood.

Drifting down on the Danish fleet
Three together the ships were lashed,
So that neither should turn and re-
 treat ; 1210
In the midst, but in front of the rest,
 The burnished crest
Of the Serpent flashed.

King Olaf stood on the quarter-deck,
 With bow of ash and arrows of oak,
 His gilded shield was without a fleck,
 His helmet inlaid with gold,
 And in many a fold
 Hung his crimson cloak.

On the forecastle Ulf the Red 1220
 Watched the lashing of the ships ;
 " If the Serpent lie so far ahead,
 We shall have hard work of it here,"
 Said he with a sneer
 On his bearded lips.

King Olaf laid an arrow on string,
 " Have I a coward on board?" said
 he.
 " Shoot it another way, O King!"
 Sullenly answered Ulf,
 The old sea-wolf; 1230
 " You have need of me!"

In front came Svend, the King of the
 Danes,
 Sweeping down with his fifty rowers;
 To the right, the Swedish king with
 his thanes ;
 And on board of the Iron Beard
 Earl Eric steered
 To the left with his oars.

" These soft Danes and Swedes," said
 the King,
 " At home with their wives had better
 stay,
 Than come within reach of my Ser-
 pent's sting: 1240
 But where Eric the Norseman leads
 Heroic deeds
 Will be done to-day!"

Then as together the vessels crashed,
 Eric severed the cables of hide,
 With which King Olaf's ships were
 lashed,
 And left them to drive and drift
 With the currents swift
 Of the outward tide.

Louder the war-horns growl and
 snarl, 1250
 Sharper the dragons bite and sting!
 Eric the son of Hakon Jarl
 A death-drink salt as the sea
 Pledges to thee,
 Olaf the King!

XX

EINAR TAMBERSKELVER

It was Einar Tamberskelver
 Stood beside the mast ;
 From his yew-bow, tipped with silver,
 Flew the arrows fast ;
 Aimed at Eric unavailing, 1260
 As he sat concealed,
 Half behind the quarter-railing,
 Half behind his shield.

First an arrow struck the tiller,
 Just above his head ;
 " Sing, O Eyvind Skaldaspiller,"
 Then Earl Eric said.
 " Sing the song of Hakon dying,
 Sing his funeral wail!"
 And another arrow flying 1270
 Grazed his coat of mail.

Turning to a Lapland yeoman,
 As the arrow passed,
 Said Earl Eric, " Shoot that bowman
 Standing by the mast."
 Sooner than the word was spoken
 Flew the yeoman's shaft ;
 Einar's bow in twain was broken,
 Einar only laughed.

" What was that?" said Olaf, stand-
 ing 1280
 On the quarter-deck.
 " Something heard I like the strand-
 ing
 Of a shattered wreck."
 Einar then, the arrow taking
 From the loosened string,
 Answered, " That was Norway break-
 ing
 From thy hand, O King!"

" Thou art but a poor diviner,"
 Straightway Olaf said ;
 " Take my bow, and swifter, Einar,
 Let thy shafts be sped." 1290
 Of his bows the fairest choosing,
 Reached he from above ;
 Einar saw the blood-drops oozing
 Through his iron glove.

But the bow was thin and narrow ;
 At the first assay,
 O'er its head he drew the arrow,
 Flung the bow away ;

Said, with hot and angry temper 1300
 Flushing in his cheek,
 "Olaf! for so great a Kämper
 Are thy bows too weak!"

Then, with a smile of joy defiant
 On his beardless lip,
 Scaled he, light and self-reliant,
 Eric's dragon-ship.
 Loose his golden locks were flowing,
 Bright his armor gleamed;
 Like Saint Michael overthrowing 1310
 Lucifer he seemed.

XXI

KING OLAF'S DEATH-DRINK

All day has the battle raged,
 All day have the ships engaged,
 But not yet is assuaged
 The vengeance of Eric the Earl.

The decks with blood are red,
 The arrows of death are sped,
 The ships are filled with the dead,
 And the spears the champions hurl.

They drift as wrecks on the tide, 1320
 The grappling-irons are plied,
 The boarders climb up the side,
 The shouts are feeble and few.

Ah! never shall Norway again
 See her sailors come back o'er the
 main;
 They all lie wounded or slain,
 Or asleep in the billows blue!

On the deck stands Olaf the King,
 Around him whistle and sing
 The spears that the foemen fling, 1330
 And the stones they hurl with their
 hands.

In the midst of the stones and the
 spears,
 Kolbiorn, the marshal, appears,
 His shield in the air he uprears,
 By the side of King Olaf he stands.

Over the slippery wreck
 Of the Long Serpent's deck
 Sweeps Eric with hardly a check,
 His lips with anger are pale;

He hews with his axe at the mast, 1340
 Till it falls, with the sails overcast,
 Like a snow-covered pine in the vast
 Dim forests of Orkadale.

Seeking King Olaf then,
 He rushes aft with his men,
 As a hunter into the den
 Of the bear, when he stands at bay.

"Remember Jarl Hakon!" he cries;
 When lo! on his wondering eyes,
 Two kingly figures arise, 1350
 Two Olafs in warlike array!

Then Kolbiorn speaks in the ear
 Of King Olaf a word of cheer,
 In a whisper that none may hear,
 With a smile on his tremulous lip;

Two shields raised high in the air,
 Two flashes of golden hair,
 Two scarlet meteors' glare,
 And both have leaped from the
 ship.

Earl Eric's men in the boats 1360
 Seize Kolbiorn's shield as it floats,
 And cry, from their hairy throats,
 "See! it is Olaf the King!"

While far on the opposite side
 Floats another shield on the tide,
 Like a jewel set in the wide
 Sea-current's eddy ring.

There is told a wonderful tale,
 How the King stripped off his mail,
 Like leaves of the brown sea-kale. 1370
 As he swam beneath the main;

But the young grew old and gray,
 And never, by night or by day,
 In his kingdom of Norrøya
 Was King Olaf seen again!

XXII

THE NUN OF NIDAROS

In the convent of Drontheim
 Alone in her chamber
 Knelt Astrid the Abbess,
 At midnight, adoring,
 Beseeching, entreating 1380
 The Virgin and Mother.

She heard in the silence
 The voice of one speaking,
 Without in the darkness,
 In gusts of the night-wind,
 Now louder, now nearer,
 Now lost in the distance.

The voice of Saint John,
 The beloved disciple,
 Who wandered and waited
 The Master's appearance,
 Alone in the darkness,
 Unsheltered and friendless.

"Kneelt Astrid the Abbess,
 At midnight, adoring"

The voice of a stranger
 It seemed as she listened,
 Of some one who answered 1390
 Beseeching, imploring,
 A cry from afar off
 She could not distinguish.

"It is accepted,
 The angry defiance,
 The challenge of battle!
 It is accepted,
 But not with the weapons
 Of war that thou wieldest!

1401

"Cross against corselet,
Love against hatred,
Peace-cry for war-cry !
Patience is powerful ;
He that o'ercometh 1410
Hath power o'er the nations !

"As torrents in summer,
Half dried in their channels,
Suddenly rise, though the
Sky is still cloudless,
For rain has been falling
Far off at their fountains ;

"So hearts that are fainting
Grow full to o'erflowing,
And they that behold it 1420
Marvel, and know not
That God at their fountains
Far off has been raining !

"Stronger than steel
Is the sword of the Spirit ;
Swifter than arrows
The light of the truth is,
Greater than anger
Is love, and subdueth !

"Thou art a phantom, 1430
A shape of the sea-mist,
A shape of the brumal
Rain, and the darkness
Fearful and formless ;
Day dawns and thou art not !

"The dawn is not distant,
Nor is the night starless ;
Love is eternal !
God is still God, and
His faith shall not fail us ; 1440
Christ is eternal !"

INTERLUDE

A STRAIN of music closed the tale,
A low, monotonous, funeral wail,
That with its cadence, wild and sweet,
Made the long Saga more complete.

"Thank God," the Theologian said,
"The reign of violence is dead,
Or dying surely from the world ;
While Love triumphant reigns instead,
And in a brighter sky o'erhead
His blessed banners are unfurled. 10

And most of all thank God for this :
The war and waste of clashing creeds
Now end in words, and not in deeds,
And no one suffers loss, or bleeds,
For thoughts that men call heresies.

"I stand without here in the porch,
I hear the bell's melodious din,
I hear the organ peal within,
I hear the prayer, with words that
scorch
Like sparks from an inverted torch, 20
I hear the sermon upon sin,
With threatenings of the last account.
And all, translated in the air,
Reach me but as our dear Lord's
Prayer,
And as the Sermon on the Mount.

"Must it be Calvin, and not Christ ?
Must it be Athanasian creeds,
Or holy water, books, and beads ?
Must struggling souls remain content
With councils and decrees of Trent ? 30
And can it be enough for these
The Christian Church the year em-
balms
With evergreens and boughs of palms,
And fills the air with litanies ?

"I know that yonder Pharisee
Thanks God that he is not like me ;
In my humiliation dressed,
I only stand and beat my breast,
And pray for human charity.

"Not to one church alone, but seven,
The voice prophetic spake from hea-
ven ; 40
And unto each the promise came,
Diversified, but still the same ;
For him that overcometh are
The new name written on the stone,
The raiment white, the crown, the
throne,
And I will give him the Morning
Star !

"Ah ! to how many Faith has been
No evidence of things unseen,
But a dim shadow, that recasts 50
The creed of the Phantasiasts,
For whom no Man of Sorrows died,
For whom the Tragedy Divine
Was but a symbol and a sign,
And Christ a phantom crucified !

"For others a diviner creed
Is living in the life they lead.
The passing of their beautiful feet
Blesses the pavement of the street,
And all their looks and words repeat 60
Old Fuller's saying, wise and sweet,
Not as a vulture, but a dove,
The Holy Ghost came from above.

"And this brings back to me a tale
So sad the hearer well may quail,
And question if such things can be ;
Yet in the chronicles of Spain
Down the dark pages runs this stain,
And naught can wash them white
again,
So fearful is the tragedy." 70

THE THEOLOGIAN'S TALE

TORQUEMADA

In the heroic days when Ferdinand
And Isabella ruled the Spanish land,
And Torquemada, with his subtle
brain,
Ruled them as Grand Inquisitor of
Spain,
In a great castle near Valladolid,
Moated and high and by fair wood-
lands hid,
There dwelt, as from the chronicles we
learn,
An old Hidalgo proud and taciturn,
Whose name has perished, with his
towers of stone,
And all his actions save this one
alone; 10
This one, so terrible, perhaps 't were
best
If it, too, were forgotten with the
rest ;
Unless, perchance, our eyes can see
therein
The martyrdom triumphant o'er the
sin ;
A double picture, with its gloom and
glow,
The splendor overhead, the death be-
low.

This sombre man counted each day as
lost
On which his feet no sacred threshold
crossed;

And when he chanced the passing
Host to meet,
He knelt and prayed devoutly in the
street ; 20
Oft he confessed ; and with each mu-
tinuous thought,
As with wild beasts at Ephesus, he
fought.
In deep contrition scourged himself in
Lent,
Walked in processions, with his head
down bent,
At plays of Corpus Christi oft was
seen,
And on Palm Sunday bore his bough
of green.
His sole diversion was to hunt the
boar
Through tangled thickets of the forest
hear,
Or with his jingling mules to hurry
down
To some grand bull-fight in the neigh-
boring town, 30
Or in the crowd with lighted taper
stand,
When Jews were burned, or banished
from the land.
Then stirred within him a tumultuous
joy ;
The demon whose delight is to de-
stroy
Shook him, and shouted with a trum-
pet tone,
" Kill ! kill ! and let the Lord find out
his own !"

And now, in that old castle in the
wood,
His daughters, in the dawn of woman-
hood,
Returning from their convent school,
had made
Resplendent with their bloom the for-
est shade, 40
Reminding him of their dead mother's
face,
When first she came into that gloomy
place, —
A memory in his heart as dim and
sweet
As moonlight in a solitary street,
Where the same rays, that lift the sea,
are thrown
Lovely but powerless upon walls of
stone.

These two fair daughters of a mother
 dead
 Were all the dream had left him as it
 fled.
 A joy at first, and then a growing care,
 As if a voice within him cried, "Be-
 ware!"⁵⁰
 A vague presentiment of impending
 doom,
 Like ghostly footsteps in a vacant
 room,
 Haunted him day and night; a form-
 less fear
 That death to some one of his house
 was near,
 With dark surmises of a hidden
 crime,
 Made life itself a death before its time.
 Jealous, suspicious, with no sense of
 shame,
 A spy upon his daughters he became;
 With velvet slippers, noiseless on the
 floors,
 He glided softly through half-open
 doors;⁶⁰
 Now in the room, and now upon the
 stair,
 He stood beside them ere they were
 aware;
 He listened in the passage when they
 talked,
 He watched them from the casement
 when they walked,
 He saw the gypsy haunt the river's
 side,
 He saw the monk among the cork-
 trees glide;
 And, tortured by the mystery and the
 doubt
 Of some dark secret, past his finding
 out,
 Baffled he paused; then reassured
 again
 Pursued the flying phantom of his
 brain.⁷⁰
 He watched them even when they
 knelt in church;
 And then, descending lower in his
 search,
 Questioned the servants, and with
 eager eyes
 Listened incredulous to their replies;
 The gypsy? none had seen her in the
 wood!
 The monk? a mendicant in search of
 food!

At length the awful revelation came,
 Crushing at once his pride of birth
 and name;
 The hopes his yearning bosom for-
 ward cast
 And the ancestral glories of the past,
 All fell together, crumbling in dis-
 grace,⁸⁰
 A turret rent from battlement to base.
 His daughters talking in the dead of
 night
 In their own chamber, and without a
 light,
 Listening, as he was wont, he over-
 heard,
 And learned the dreadful secret, word
 by word;
 And hurrying from his castle, with a
 cry
 He raised his hands to the unpitying
 sky,
 Repeating one dread word, till bush
 and tree
 Caught it, and shuddering answered,
 "Heresy!"⁹⁰

Wrapped in his cloak, his hat drawn
 o'er his face,
 Now hurrying forward, now with
 lingering pace,
 He walked all night the alleys of his
 park,
 With one unseen companion in the
 dark,
 The demon who within him lay in
 wait
 And by his presence turned his love
 to hate,
 Forever muttering in an undertone,
 "Kill! kill! and let the Lord find out
 his own!"

Upon the morrow, after early mass,
 While yet the dew was glistening on
 the grass,¹⁰⁰
 And all the woods were musical with
 birds,
 The old Hidalgo, uttering fearful
 words,
 Walked homeward with the Priest,
 and in his room
 Summoned his trembling daughters to
 their doom.
 When questioned, with brief answers
 they replied,
 Nor when accused evaded or denied;

Expostulations, passionate appeals,
 All that the human heart most fears
 or feels,
 In vain the Priest with earnest voice
 essayed;
 In vain the father threatened, wept,
 and prayed;
 Until at last he said, with haughty
 mien,
 "The Holy Office, then, must inter-
 vene!"

And now the Grand Inquisitor of
 Spain,
 With all the fifty horsemen of his train,
 His awful name resounding, like the
 blast
 Of funeral trumpets, as he onward
 passed,
 Came to Valladolid, and there began
 To harry the rich Jews with fire and
 ban.
 To him the Hidalgo went, and at the
 gate
 Demanded audience on affairs of
 state,
 And in a secret chamber stood be-
 fore
 A venerable graybeard of fourscore,
 Dressed in the hood and habit of a
 friar;
 Out of his eyes flashed a consuming
 fire,
 And in his hand the mystic horn he
 held,
 Which poison and all noxious charms
 dispelled.
 He heard in silence the Hidalgo's tale,
 Then answered in a voice that made
 him quail:
 "Son of the Church! when Abraham
 of old
 To sacrifice his only son was told,
 He did not pause to parley nor pro-
 test,
 But hastened to obey the Lord's be-
 hest.
 In him it was accounted righteous-
 ness;
 The Holy Church expects of thee no
 less!"

A sacred frenzy seized the father's
 brain,
 And Mercy from that hour implored
 in vain.

Ah! who will e'er believe the words I
 say?
 His daughters he accused, and the
 same day
 They both were cast into the dun-
 geon's gloom,
 That dismal antechamber of the
 tomb,
 Arraigned, condemned, and sentenced
 to the flame,
 These secret torture and the public shame.

Then to the Grand Inquisitor once
 more
 The Hidalgo went more eager than
 before,
 And said: "When Abraham offered
 up his son,
 He clave the wood wherewith it might
 be done.
 By his example taught, let me too
 bring
 Wood from the forest for my offer-
 ing!"
 And the deep voice, without a pause,
 replied:
 "Son of the Church! by faith now
 justified,
 Complete thy sacrifice, even as thou
 wilt;
 The Church absolves thy conscience
 from all guilt!"

Then this most wretched father went
 his way
 Into the woods, that round his castle
 lay,
 Where once his daughters in their
 childhood played
 With their young mother in the sun
 and shade.
 Now all the leaves had fallen; the
 branches bare
 Made a perpetual moaning in the air,
 And screaming from their eyries over-
 head
 The ravens sailed athwart the sky of
 lead.
 With his own hands he lopped the
 boughs and bound
 Fagots, that crackled with foreboding
 sound,
 And on his mules, caparisoned and
 gay
 With bells and tassels, sent them on
 their way.

Then with his mind on one dark purpose bent,
 Again to the Inquisitor he went,
 And said: "Behold, the fagots I have brought,
 And now, lest my atonement be as naught,
 Grant me one more request, one last desire, —
 With my own hand to light the funeral fire!"
 And Torquemada answered from his seat,
 "Son of the Church! Thine offering is complete;
 Her servants through all ages shall not cease
 To magnify thy deed. Depart in peace!"

Upon the market-place, bullded of stone
 The scaffold rose, whereon Death claimed his own.
 At the four corners, in stern attitude,
 Four statues of the Hebrew Prophets stood,
 Gazing with calm indifference in their eyes
 Upon this place of human sacrifice,
 Round which was gathering fast the eager crowd,
 With clamor of voices dissonant and loud,
 And every roof and window was alive
 With restless gazers, swarming like a hive.

"Then to the Grand Inquisitor once more
 The Hidalgo went more eager than before"

The church-bells tolled, the chant of
monks drew near,
Loud trumpets stammered forth their
notes of fear,
A line of torches smoked along the
street,
There was a stir, a rush, a tramp of
feet,

Lighted in haste the fagots, and then
fled,
Lest those imploring eyes should strike
him dead !
O pitiless skies ! why did your clouds
retain
For peasants' fields their floods of
hoarded rain? 300

"Slowly the long procession crossed the square"

And, with its banners floating in the
air,
Slowly the long procession crossed
the square, 190
And, to the statues of the Prophets
bound,
The victims stood, with fagots piled
around.
Then all the air a blast of trumpets
shook,
And louder sang the monks with bell
and book,
And the Hidalgo, lofty, stern, and
proud,
Lifted his torch, and, bursting through
the crowd,

O pitiless earth ! why opened no
abyss
To bury in its chasm a crime like
this?
That night, a mingled column of fire
and smoke
From the dark thickets of the forest
broke,
And, glaring o'er the landscape leagues
away,
Made all the fields and hamlets bright
as day.
Wrapped in a sheet of flame the castle
blazed,
And as the villagers in terror gazed,

They saw the figure of that cruel
knight
Lean from a window in the turret's
height,
His ghastly face illumined with the
glare,
His hands upraised above his head in
prayer,
Till the floor sank beneath him, and
he fell
Down the black hollow of that burn-
ing well.

Three centuries and more above his
bones
Have piled the oblivious years like
funeral stones;
His name has perished with him, and
no trace
Remains on earth of his afflicted
race;
But Torquemada's name, with clouds
o'ercast,
Looms in the distant landscape of the
Past,
Like a burnt tower upon a blackened
heath,
Lit by the fires of burning woods be-
neath!

INTERLUDE

Thus closed the tale of guilt and
gloom,
That cast upon each listener's face
Its shadow, and for some brief space
Unbroken silence filled the room.
The Jew was thoughtful and dis-
tressed;
Upon his memory thronged and
pressed
The persecution of his race,
Their wrongs and sufferings and dis-
grace;
His head was sunk upon his breast,
And from his eyes alternate came
Flashes of wrath and tears of shame.

The Student first the silence broke,
As one who long has lain in wait,
With purpose to retaliate,
And thus he dealt the avenging
stroke.

"In such a company as this,
A tale so tragic seems amiss,

That by its terrible control
O'ermasters and drags down the soul
Into a fathomless abyss.
The Italian Tales that you disdain,
Some merry Night of Straparole,
Or Machiavelli's Belpagor,
Would cheer us and delight us more,
Give greater pleasure and less pain
Than your grim tragedies of Spain!"

And here the Poet raised his hand,
With such entreaty and command,
It stopped discussion at its birth,
And said: "The story I shall tell
Has meaning in it, if not mirth;
Listen, and hear what once befell
The merry birds of Killingworth!"

THE POET'S TALE

THE BIRDS OF KILLINGWORTH

It was the season, when through all
the land
The merle and mavis build, and
building sing
Those lovely lyrics, written by His
hand,
Whom Saxon Cædmon calls the
Blithe-heart King;
When on the boughs the purple buds
expand,
The banners of the vanguard of the
Spring,
And rivulets, rejoicing, rush and
leap,
And wave their fluttering signals from
the steep.

The robin and the bluebird, piping
loud,
Filled all the blossoming orchards
with their glee;
The sparrows chirped as if they still
were proud
Their race in Holy Writ should
mentioned be;
And hungry crows, assembled in a
crowd,
Clamored their piteous prayer inces-
santly,
Knowing who hears the ravens cry,
and said:
"Give us, O Lord, this day our daily
bread!"

Across the Sound the birds of passage
sailed,

Speaking some unknown language
strange and sweet
Of tropic isle remote, and passing
hailed

The village with the cheers of all
their fleet;
Or quarrelling together, laughed and
railed

Like foreign sailors, landed in the
street
Of seaport town, and with outlandish
noise

Of oaths and gibberish frightening
girls and boys.

Thus came the jocund Spring in Kill-
lingworth,

In fabulous days, some hundred
years ago;

And thrifty farmers, as they tilled the
earth,

Heard with alarm the cawing of the
crow,
That mingled with the universal
mirth,

Cassandra-like, prognosticating woe;
They shook their heads, and doomed
with dreadful words
To swift destruction the whole race of
birds.

And a town-meeting was convened
straightway

To set a price upon the guilty heads
Of these marauders, who, in lieu of
pay,

Levied black mail upon the garden
beds

And cornfields, and beheld without
dismay

The awful scarecrow, with his
fluttering shreds ;
The skeleton that waited at their
feast,
Whereby their sinful pleasure was in-
creased. 40

Then from his house, a temple painted
white,
With fluted columns, and a roof of
red,
The Squire came forth, august and
splendid sight!
Slowly descending, with majestic
tread,
Three flights of steps, nor looking left
nor right,
Down the long street he walked, as
one who said,
"A town that boasts inhabitants like
me
Can have no lack of good society !"

The Parson, too, appeared, a man
austere,
The instinct of whose nature was to
kill ; 50
The wrath of God he preached from
year to year,
And read, with fervor, Edwards on
the Will;
His favorite pastime was to slay the
deer
In Summer on some Adirondac hill ;
E'en now, while walking down the
rural lane,
He lopped the wayside lilies with his
cane.

From the Academy, whose belfry
crowned
The hill of Science with its vane of
brass,
Came the Preceptor, gazing idly round,
Now at the clouds, and now at the
green grass, 60
And all absorbed in reveries profound
Of fair Almira in the upper class,
Who was, as in a sonnet he had said,
As pure as water, and as good as bread.

And next the Deacon issued from his
door,
In his voluminous neck-cloth, white
as snow ;
A suit of sable bombazine he wore ;

His form was ponderous, and his
step was slow ;
There never was so wise a man be-
fore ;
He seemed the incarnate " Well, I
told you so ! " 70
And to perpetuate his great renown
There was a street named after him in
town.

These came together in the new town-
hall,
With sundry farmers from the re-
gion round.
The Squire presided, dignified and tall,
His air impressive and his reasoning
sound ;
Ill fared it with the birds, both great
and small ;
Hardly a friend in all that crowd
they found,
But enemies enough, who every one
Charged them with all the crimes be-
neath the sun. 80

When they had ended, from his place
apart
Rose the Preceptor, to redress the
wrong,
And, trembling like a steed before
the start,
Looked round bewildered on the
expectant throng ;
Then thought of fair Almira, and took
heart
To speak out what was in him,
clear and strong,
Alike regardless of their smile or
frown,
And quite determined not to be
laughed down.

" Plato, anticipating the Reviewers,
From his Republic banished without
pity 90
The Poets ; in this little town of yours,
You put to death, by means of a
Committee,
The ballad-singers and the Trouba-
dours,
The street-musicians of the hea-
venly city,
The birds, who make sweet music for
us all
In our dark hours, as David did for
Saul.

"Alike regardless of their smile or frown,
And quite determined not to be laughed down"

The thrush that carols at the dawn
of day
From the green steeples of the piny
wood;
The oriole in the elm; the noisy jay,
Jargoning like a foreigner at his
food;
The bluebird balanced on some top-
most spray,
Flooding with melody the neighbor-
hood;
Linnet and meadow-lark, and all the
throng
That dwell in nests, and have the gift
of song.
"You slay them all! and wherefore?
for the gain
Of a scant handful more or less of
wheat,
Or rye, or barley, or some other grain,

Scratched up at random by industri-
ous feet,
Searching for worm or weevil after
rain!
Or a few cherries, that are not so
sweet
As are the songs these uninvited
guests
Sing at their feast with comfortable
breasts.

"Do you ne'er think what wondrous
beings these?
Do you ne'er think who made them,
and who taught
The dialect they speak, where melo-
dies
Alone are the interpreters of
thought?
Whose household words are songs in
many keys,

Sweeter than instrument of man
e'er caught!
Whose habitations in the tree-tops
even
Are half-way houses on the road to
heaven! 120

"Think, every morning when the sun
peeps through
The dim, leaf-latticed windows of
the grove,
How jubilant the happy birds renew
Their old, melodious madrigals of
love!
And when you think of this, remem-
ber too
'T is always morning somewhere,
and above
The awakening continents, from shore
to shore,
Somewhere the birds are singing ever-
more.

"Think of your woods and orchards
without birds!
Of empty nests that cling to boughs
and beams 130
As in an idiot's brain remembered
words
Hang empty 'mid the cobwebs of his
dreams!
Will bleat of flocks or bellowing of
herds
Make up for the lost music, when
your teams
Drag home the stingy harvest, and no
more
The feathered gleaners follow to your
door?

"What! would you rather see the in-
cessant stir
Of insects in the windrows of the
hay,
And hear the locust and the grasshop-
per
Their melancholy hurdy-gurdies
play? 140
Is this more pleasant to you than the
whir
Of meadow-lark, and her sweet
roundelay,
Or twitter of little field-fares, as you
take
Your nooning in the shade of bush
and brake?

"You call them thieves and pillagers;
but know,
They are the wingèd wardens of
your farms,
Who from the cornfields drive the in-
sidious foe,
And from your harvests keep a hun-
dred harms;
Even the blackest of them all, the crow,
Renders good service as your man-
at-arms, 150
Crushing the beetle in his coat of mail,
And crying havoc on the slug and
snail.

"How can I teach your children gen-
tleness,
And mercy to the weak, and rever-
ence
For Life, which, in its weakness or ex-
cess,
Is still a gleam of God's omnipo-
tence,
Or Death, which, seeming darkness,
is no less
The selfsame light, although averted
hence,
When by your laws, your actions, and
your speech,
You contradict the very things I
teach?" 160

With this he closed; and through the
audience went
A murmur, like the rustle of dead
leaves;
The farmers laughed and nodded, and
some bent
Their yellow heads together like
their sheaves;
Men have no faith in fine-spun senti-
ment
Who put their trust in bullocks and
in beeves.
The birds were doomed; and, as the
record shows,
A bounty offered for the heads of
crows.

There was another audience out of
reach,
Who had no voice nor vote in mak-
ing laws, 170
But in the papers read his little speech,
And crowned his modest temples
with applause;

They made him conscious, each one
more than each,

He still was victor, vanquished in
their cause.

Sweetest of all the applause he won
from thee,

O fair Almira at the Academy!

And so the dreadful massacre be-
gan;

O'er fields and orchards, and o'er
woodland crests,

The ceaseless fusillade of terror ran.

Dead fell the birds, with blood-
stains on their breasts, ¹⁸⁰

Or wounded crept away from sight
of man,

While the young died of famine in
their nests;

A slaughter to be told in groans, not
words,

The very St. Bartholomew of Birds!

The Summer came, and all the birds
were dead;

The days were like hot coals; the
very ground

Was burned to ashes; in the orchards
fed

Myriads of caterpillars, and around
The cultivated fields and garden
beds

Hosts of devouring insects crawled,
and found ¹⁹⁰

No foe to check their march, till they
had made

The land a desert without leaf or
shade.

Devoured by worms, like Herod, was
the town,

Because, like Herod, it had ruth-
lessly

Slaughtered the Innocents. From the
trees spun down

The canker-worms upon the passers-
by,

Upon each woman's bonnet, shawl,
and gown,

Who shook them off with just a
little cry;

They were the terror of each favorite
walk,

The endless theme of all the village
talk. ²⁰⁰

The farmers grew impatient, but a
few

Confessed their error, and would
not complain,

For after all, the best thing one can do
When it is raining, is to let it rain.

Then they repealed the law, although
they knew

It would not call the dead to life
again;

As school-boys, finding their mistake
too late,

Draw a wet sponge across the accus-
ing slate.

That year in Killingworth the Autumn
came

Without the light of his majestic
look, ²¹⁰

The wonder of the falling tongues of
flame,

The illumined pages of his Doom's-
Day book.

A few lost leaves blushed crimson
with their shame,

And drowned themselves despairing
in the brook,

While the wild wind went moaning
everywhere,

Lamenting the dead children of the
air!

But the next Spring a stranger sight
was seen,

A sight that never yet by bard was
sung,

As great a wonder as it would have
been

If some dumb animal had found a
tongue! ²²⁰

A wagon, overarched with evergreen,
Upon whose boughs were wicker

cages hung,

All full of singing birds, came down
the street,

Filling the air with music wild and
sweet.

From all the country round these
birds were brought,

By order of the town, with anxious
quest,

And, loosened from their wicker
prisons, sought

In woods and fields the places they
loved best,

Singing loud canticles, which many
thought
Were satires to the authorities ad-
dressed, ²³⁰
While others, listening in green lanes,
averred
Such lovely music never had been
heard!

But blither still and louder carolled
they
Upon the morrow, for they seemed
to know
It was the fair Almira's wedding-day,
And everywhere, around, above,
below,
When the Preceptor bore his bride
away,
Their songs burst forth in joyous
overflow,
And a new heaven bent over a new
earth
Amid the sunny farms of Killing-
worth. ²⁴⁰

FINALE

THE hour was late; the fire burned
low,
The Landlord's eyes were closed in
sleep,
And near the story's end a deep,
Sonorous sound at times was heard,
As when the distant bagpipes blow.
At this all laughed; the Landlord
stirred,
As one awaking from a swoond,
And, gazing anxiously around,
Protested that he had not slept,
But only shut his eyes, and kept ¹⁰
His ears attentive to each word.

Then all arose, and said "Good
Night."
Alone remained the drowsy Squire
To rake the embers of the fire,
And quench the waning parlor light;
While from the windows, here and
there,
The scattered lamps a moment
gleamed,
And the illumined hostel seemed
The constellation of the Bear,
Downward, athwart the misty air, ²⁰
Sinking and setting toward the sun.
Far off the village clock struck one.

PART SECOND

PRELUDE

A COLD, uninterrupted rain,
That washed each southern window-
pane,
And made a river of the road;
A sea of mist that overflowed
The house, the barns, the gilded vane,
And drowned the upland and the plain,
Through which the oak-trees, broad
and high,
Like phantom ships went drifting by:
And, hidden behind a watery screen,
The sun unseen, or only seen ¹⁰
As a faint pallor in the sky;—
Thus cold and colorless and gray,
The morn of that autumnal day,
As if reluctant to begin,
Dawned on the silent Suckbury Inn,
And all the guests that in it lay.

Full late they slept. They did not hear
The challenge of Sir Chanticleer,
Who on the empty threshing-floor,
Disdainful of the rain outside, ²⁰
Was strutting with a martial stride,
As if upon his thigh he wore
The famous broadsword of the Squire,
And said, "Behold me, and admire!"

Only the Poet seemed to hear,
In drowse or dream, more near and
near

Across the border-land of sleep,
The blowing of a blithesome horn,
That laughed the dismal day to scorn
A splash of hoofs and rush of wheels
Through sand and mire like stranding
keels, ³⁰

As from the road with sudden sweep
The Mail drove up the little steep.
And stopped beside the tavern door;
A moment stopped, and then again
With crack of whip and bark of dog
Plunged forward through the sea of
fog,

And all was silent as before, —
All silent save the dripping rain.

Then one by one the guests came
down, ⁴⁰
And greeted with a smile the Squire,
Who sat before the parlor fire,
Reading the paper fresh from town.

First the Sicilian, like a bird,
 Before his form appeared, was heard
 Whistling and singing down the stair,
 Then came the Student, with a look
 As placid as a meadow-brook;
 The Theologian, still perplexed
 With thoughts of this world and the
 next;

50

The Poet then, as one who seems
 Walking in visions and in dreams;
 Then the Musician, like a fair
 Hyperion from whose golden hair
 The radiance of the morning streams;
 And last the aromatic Jew
 Of Alicant, who, as he threw
 The door wide open, on the air
 Breathed round about him a perfume
 Of damask roses in full bloom,
 Making a garden of the room.

60

By far the busiest of them all,
 The Theologian in the hall
 Was feeding robins in a cage, —
 Two corpulent and lazy birds,
 Vagrants and pilferers at best,
 If one might trust the hostler's words,
 Chief instrument of their arrest;
 Two poets of the Golden Age,
 Heirs of a boundless heritage
 Of fields and orchards, east and west,
 And sunshine of long summer days,
 Though outlawed now and dispos-
 sessed! —
 Such was the Theologian's phrase.

82

Meanwhile the Student held discourse
 With the Musician, on the source
 Of all the legendary lore
 Among the nations, scattered wide

. . . "leafless branches, and the air
 Filled with the arrows of the rain"

The breakfast ended, each pursued
 The promptings of his various mood;
 Beside the fire in silence smoked
 The taciturn, impassive Jew,
 Lost in a pleasant revery;
 While, by his gravity provoked,
 His portrait the Sicilian drew,
 And wrote beneath it "Edrehi,
 At the Red Horse in Sudbury."

70

Like silt and seaweed by the force
 And fluctuation of the tide;
 The tale repeated o'er and o'er,
 With change of place and change of
 name,
 Disguised, transformed, and yet the
 same
 We've heard a hundred times be-
 fore.

90

The Poet at the window mused,
 And saw, as in a dream confused,
 The countenance of the Sun, dis-
 crowned,
 And haggard with a pale despair,
 And saw the cloud-rack trail and drift
 Before it, and the trees uplift
 Their leafless branches, and the air 100
 Filled with the arrows of the rain,
 And heard amid the mist below,
 Like voices of distress and pain,
 That haunt the thoughts of men insane,
 The fateful cawings of the crow.

Then down the road, with mud be-
 sprent,
 And drenched with rain from head to
 hoof,
 The rain-drops dripping from his mane
 And tail as from a pent-house roof,
 A jaded horse, his head down bent, 110
 Passed slowly, limping as he went.

The young Sicilian — who had grown
 Impatient longer to abide
 A prisoner, greatly mortified
 To see completely overthrown
 His plans for angling in the brook,
 And, leaning o'er the bridge of stone,
 To watch the speckled trout glide by,
 And float through the inverted sky,
 Still round and round the baited
 hook — 120

Now paced the room with rapid stride,
 And, pausing at the Poet's side,
 Looked forth, and saw the wretched
 steed,

And said : "Alas for human greed,
 That with cold hand and stony eye
 Thus turns an old friend out to die,
 Or beg his food from gate to gate !
 This brings a tale into my mind,
 Which, if you are not disinclined
 To listen, I will now relate." 130

All gave assent; all wished to hear,
 Not without many a jest and jeer,
 The story of a spavined steed ;
 And even the Student with the rest
 Put in his pleasant little jest
 Out of Malherbe, that Pegasus
 Is but a horse that with all speed
 Bears poets to the hospital ;
 While the Sicilian, self-possessed,
 After a moment's interval 140
 Began his simple story thus.

THE SICILIAN'S TALE

THE BELL OF ATRI

At Atri in Abruzzo, a small town .
 Of ancient Roman date, but scant re-
 nown,
 One of those little places that have run
 Half up the hill, beneath a blazing
 sun,
 And then sat down to rest, as if to
 say,
 "I climb no farther upward, come
 what may," —
 The Re Giovanni, now unknown to
 fame,
 So many monarchs since have borne
 the name,
 Had a great bell hung in the market-
 place,
 Beneath a roof, projecting some small
 space 10
 By way of shelter from the sun and
 rain.
 Then rode he through the streets with
 all his train,
 And, with the blast of trumpets loud
 and long,
 Made proclamation, that whenever
 wrong
 Was done to any man, he should but
 ring
 The great bell in the square, and he,
 the King,
 Would cause the Syndic to decide
 thereon.
 Such was the proclamation of King
 John.

How swift the happy days in Atri
 sped,
 What wrongs were righted, need not
 here be said, 20
 Suffice it that, as all things must decay,
 The hempen rope at length was worn
 away,
 Unravell'd at the end, and, strand by
 strand,
 Loosened and wasted in the ringer's
 hand,
 Till one, who noted this in passing
 by,
 Mended the rope with braids of briony,
 So that the leaves and tendrils of the
 vine
 Hung like a votive garland at a shrine

By chance it happened that in Atri
 dwelt
 A knight, with spur on heel and sword
 in belt,
 Who loved to hunt the wild-boar in ³⁰
 the woods,
 Who loved his falcons with their crim-
 son hoods,
 Who loved his hounds and horses, and
 all sports
 And prodigalities of camps and
 courts; —
 Loved, or had loved them; for at last,
 grown old,
 His only passion was the love of
 gold.

He sold his horses, sold his hawks and
 hounds,
 Rented his vineyards and his garden-
 grounds,
 Kept but one steed, his favorite steed
 of all,
 To starve and shiver in a naked
 stall,

At length he said: "What is the use
 or need
 To keep at my own cost this lazy
 steed,
 Eating his head off in my stables here,
 When rents are low and provender is
 dear?
 Let him go feed upon the public ways;
 I want him only for the holidays."
 So the old steed was turned into the
 heat
 Of the long, lonely, silent, shadeless
 street;
 And wandered in suburban lanes for-
 lorn,
 Barked at by dogs, and torn by brier
 and thorn.

One afternoon, as in that sultry clime
 It is the custom in the summer time,
 With bolted doors and window-shut-
 ters closed,
 The inhabitants of Atri slept or dozed;
 When suddenly upon their senses
 fell
 The loud alarm of the accusing bell!

The Syndic started from his deep re-
pose,
Turned on his couch, and listened, and
then rose 60
And donned his robes, and with reluc-
tant pace
Went panting forth into the market-
place,
Where the great bell upon its cross-
beams swung,
Reiterating with persistent tongue,
In half-articulate jargon, the old song:
"Some one hath done a wrong, hath
done a wrong!"

But ere he reached the belfry's light
arcade
He saw, or thought he saw, beneath
its shade,
No shape of human form of woman
born,
But a poor steed dejected and for-
lorn, 70
Who with uplifted head and eager
eye
Was tugging at the vines of briony.
"Domeneddio!" cried the Syndic
straight,
"This is the Knight of Atri's steed of
state!
He calls for justice, being sore dis-
tressed,
And pleads his cause as loudly as the
best."

Meanwhile from street and lane a noisy
crowd
Had rolled together like a summer
cloud,
And told the story of the wretched
beast
In five-and-twenty different ways at
least, 80
With much gesticulation and appeal
To heathen gods, in their excessive
zeal.
The Knight was called and ques-
tioned; in reply
Did not confess the fact, did not
deny;
Treated the matter as a pleasant jest,
And set at naught the Syndic and the
rest,
Maintaining, in an angry undertone,
That he should do what pleased him
with his own.

And thereupon the Syndic gravely
read
The proclamation of the King; then
said: 90
"Pride goeth forth on horseback
grand and gay,
But cometh back on foot, and begs its
way;
Fame is the fragrance of heroic deeds,
Of flowers of chivalry and not of
weeds!
These are familiar proverbs; but I fear
They never yet have reached your
knightly ear.
What fair renown, what honor, what
repute
Can come to you from starving this
poor brute?
He who serves well and speaks not,
merits more
Than they who clamor loudest at the
door. 100
Therefore the law decrees that as this
steed
Served you in youth, henceforth you
shall take heed
To comfort his old age, and to provide
Shelter in stall, and food and field be-
side."

The Knight withdrew abashed; the
people all
Led home the steed in triumph to his
stall.
The King heard and approved, and
laughed in glee,
And cried aloud: "Right well it
pleaseth me!
Church-bells at best but ring us to the
door;
But go not in to mass; my bell doth
more: 110
It cometh into court and pleads the
cause
Of creatures dumb and unknown to
the laws;
And this shall make, in every Chris-
tian clime,
The Bell of Atri famous for all time."

INTERLUDE

"YES, well your story pleads the
cause
Of those dumb mouths that have no
speech,

Only a cry from each to each
In its own kind, with its own laws;
Something that is beyond the reach
Of human power to learn or teach, —
An inarticulate moan of pain,
Like the immeasurable main
Breaking upon an unknown beach."

Thus spake the Poet with a sigh; 10
Then added, with impassioned cry,
As one who feels the words he speaks,
The color flushing in his cheeks,
The fervor burning in his eye:
"Among the noblest in the land,
Though he may count himself the
least,
That man I honor and revere
Who without favor, without fear,
In the great city dares to stand
The friend of every friendless beast, 20
And tames with his unflinching hand
The brutes that wear our form and
face,
The were-wolves of the human race!"
Then paused, and waited with a frown,
Like some old champion of romance,
Who, having thrown his gauntlet
down,
Expectant leans upon his lance;
But neither Knight nor Squire is
found 28
To raise the gauntlet from the ground,
And try with him the battle's chance.

"Wake from your dreams, O Edrehi!
Or dreaming speak to us, and make
A feint of being half awake,
And tell us what your dreams may be.
Out of the hazy atmosphere
Of cloud-land deign to reappear
Among us in this Wayside Inn;
Tell us what visions and what scenes
Illuminate the dark ravines
In which you grope your way. Be-
gin!" 40

Thus the Sicilian spake. The Jew
Made no reply, but only smiled,
As men unto a wayward child,
Not knowing what to answer, do.
As from a cavern's mouth, o'er-
grown
With moss and intertangled vines,
A streamlet leaps into the light
And murmurs over root and stone
In a melodious undertone;
Or as amid the noonday night 50

Of sombre and wind-haunted pines
There runs a sound as of the sea;
So from his bearded lips there came
A melody without a name,
A song, a tale, a history,
Or whatsoever it may be,
Writ and recorded in these lines.

THE SPANISH JEW'S TALE

KAMBALU

Into the city of Kambalu,
By the road that leadeth to Ispahan,
At the head of his dusty caravan,
Laden with treasure from realms afar,
Baldacca and Kelat and Kandahar,
Rode the great captain Alau.

The Khan from his palace-window
gazed,
And saw in the thronging street be-
neath,
In the light of the setting sun, that
blazed
Through the clouds of dust by the
caravan raised, 10
The flash of harness and jewelled
sheath,
And the shining scimitars of the
guard,
And the weary camels that bared
their teeth,
As they passed and passed through
the gates unbarred
Into the shade of the palace-yard.

Thus into the city of Kambalu
Rode the great captain Alau;
And he stood before the Khan, and said:
"The enemies of my lord are dead;
All the Kalifs of all the West 20
Bow and obey thy least behest;
The plains are dark with the mul-
berry-trees,
The weavers are busy in Samarcand,
The miners are sifting the golden sand,
The divers plunging for pearls in the
seas,
And peace and plenty are in the land.
"Baldacca's Kalif, and he alone,
Rose in revolt against thy throne:
His treasures are at thy palace-door,
With the swords and the shawls and
the jewels he wore; 30
His body is dust o'er the desert blown.

" A mile outside of Baldacca's gate
 I left my forces to lie in wait,
 Concealed by forests and hillocks of
 sand,
 And forward dashed with a handful
 of men,
 To lure the old tiger from his den
 Into the ambush I had planned.
 Ere we reached the town the alarm
 was spread,
 For we heard the sound of gongs from
 within ;
 And with clash of cymbals and war-
 like din
 The gates swung wide ; and we turned
 and fled ;
 And the garrison sallied forth and
 pursued,
 With the gray old Kalif at their head,
 And above them the banner of Moham-
 med :
 So we snared them all, and the town
 was subdued.

" As in at the gate we rode, behold,
 A tower that is called the Tower of
 Gold !
 For there the Kalif had hidden his
 wealth,
 Heaped and hoarded and piled on
 high,
 Like sacks of wheat in a granary ;
 And thither the miser crept by stealth
 To feel of the gold that gave him
 health,
 And to gaze and gloat with his hungry
 eye
 On jewels that gleamed like a glow-
 worm's spark,
 Or the eyes of a panther in the dark.

" I said to the Kalif : ' Thou art old,
 Thou hast no need of so much gold.
 Thou shouldst not have heaped and
 hidden it here,
 Till the breath of battle was hot and
 near,
 But have sown through the land these
 useless hoards
 To spring into shining blades of
 swords,
 And keep thine honor sweet and clear.
 These grains of gold are not grains of
 wheat ;
 These bars of silver thou canst not
 eat ;

These jewels and pearls and precious
 stones
 Cannot cure the aches in thy bones,
 Nor keep the feet of Death one hour
 From climbing the stairways of thy
 tower ! '

" Then into his dungeon I locked the
 drone,
 And left him to feed there all alone
 In the honey-cells of his golden hive ;
 Never a prayer, nor a cry, nor a groan
 Was heard from those massive walls
 of stone,
 Nor again was the Kalif seen alive !

" When at last we unlocked the door,
 We found him dead upon the floor ;
 The rings had dropped from his with-
 ered hands,
 His teeth were like bones in the desert
 sands :
 Still clutching his treasure he had
 died ;
 And as he lay there, he appeared
 A statue of gold with a silver beard,
 His arms outstretched as if crucified."

This is the story, strange and true,
 That the great captain Alau
 Told to his brother the Tartar Khan,
 When he rode that day into Kambalu
 By the road that leadeth to Ispahan.

INTERLUDE

" I THOUGHT before your tale began,"
 The Student murmured, " we should
 have
 Some legend written by Judah Rav
 In his Gemara of Babylon ;
 Or something from the Gulistan, —
 The tale of the Cazy of Hamadan,
 Or of that King of Khorasan
 Who saw in dreams the eyes of one
 That had a hundred years been dead
 Still moving restless in his head,
 Undimmed, and gleaming with the
 lust
 Of power, though all the rest was
 dust.

" But lo ! your glittering caravan
 On the road that leadeth to Ispahan
 Hath led us farther to the East
 Into the regions of Cathay.

Spite of your Kalif and his gold,
Pleasant has been the tale you told,
And full of color ; that at least
No one will question or gainsay. 20
And yet on such a dismal day
We need a merrier tale to clear
The dark and heavy atmosphere.
So listen, Lordlings, while I tell,
Without a preface, what befell
A simple cobbler, in the year —
No matter ; it was long ago ;
And that is all we need to know."

THE STUDENT'S TALE

THE COBBLER OF HAGENAU

I TRUST that somewhere and somehow
You all have heard of Hagenau,
A quiet, quaint, and ancient town
Among the green Alsatian hills,
A place of valleys, streams, and mills,
Where Barbarossa's castle, brown
With rust of centuries, still looks down
On the broad, drowsy land below, —

"As in at the gate we rode, behold,
A tower that is called the Tower of Gold!"

On shadowy forests filled with game,
 And the blue river winding slow 10
 Through meadows, where the hedges
 grow
 That give this little town its name.

It happened in the good old times,
 While yet the Master-singers filled
 The noisy workshop and the guild
 With various melodies and rhymes,
 That here in Hagenau there dwelt
 A cobbler, — one who loved debate,
 And, arguing from a postulate,
 Would say what others only felt; 20
 A man of forecast and of thrift,
 And of a shrewd and careful mind
 In this world's business, but inclined
 Somewhat to let the next world drift.

Hans Sachs with vast delight he read,
 And Regenbogen's rhymes of love,
 For their poetic fame had spread
 Even to the town of Hagenau;
 And some Quick Melody of the
 Plough,
 Or Double Harmony of the Dove 30
 Was always running in his head.
 He kept, moreover, at his side,
 Among his leathers and his tools,
 Reynard the Fox, the Ship of Fools,
 Or Eulenspiegel, open wide;
 With these he was much edified:
 He thought them wiser than the
 Schools.

His good wife, full of godly fear,
 Liked not these worldly themes to
 hear;
 The Psalter was her book of songs; 40
 The only music to her ear
 Was that which to the Church belongs,
 When the loud choir on Sunday
 chanted,
 And the two angels carved in wood,
 That by the windy organ stood,
 Blew on their trumpets loud and clear,
 And all the echoes, far and near,
 Gibbered as if the church were
 haunted.

Outside his door, one afternoon,
 This humble votary of the muse 50
 Sat in the narrow strip of shade
 By a projecting cornice made,
 Mending the Burgomaster's shoes,
 And singing a familiar tune: —

“Our ingress into the world
 Was naked and bare;
 Our progress through the world
 Is trouble and care;
 Our egress from the world
 Will be nobody knows where: 60
 But if we do well here
 We shall do well there;
 And I could tell you no more,
 Should I preach a whole year!”

Thus sang the cobbler at his work;
 And with his gestures marked the
 time,
 Closing together with a jerk
 Of his waxed thread the stitch and
 rhyme.

Meanwhile his quiet little dame
 Was leaning o'er the window-sill, 70
 Eager, excited, but mouse-still,
 Gazing impatiently to see
 What the great throng of folk might be
 That onward in procession came,
 Along the unfrequented street,
 With horns that blew, and drums that
 beat,
 And banners flying, and the flame
 Of tapers, and, at times, the sweet
 Voices of nuns; and as they sang
 Suddenly all the church-bells rang. 80

In a gay coach, above the crowd,
 There sat a monk in ample hood,
 Who with his right hand held aloft
 A red and ponderous cross of wood,
 To which at times he meekly bowed.
 In front three horsemen rode, and oft,
 With voice and air importunate,
 A boisterous herald cried aloud:
 “The grace of God is at your gate!”
 So onward to the church they passed.

The cobbler slowly turned his last, 90
 And, wagging his sagacious head,
 Unto his kneeling housewife said:
 “’T is the monk Tetzal. I have heard
 The cawings of that reverend bird.
 Don't let him cheat you of your gold:
 Indulgence is not bought and sold.”

The church of Hagenau, that night,
 Was full of people, full of light;
 An odor of incense filled the air, 100
 The priest intoned, the organ groaned
 Its inarticulate despair;

The candles on the altar blazed,
And full in front of it upraised
The red cross stood against the glare.
Below, upon the altar-rail
Indulgences were set to sale,
Like ballads at a country fair.
A heavy strong-box, iron-bound
And carved with many a quaint de-
vice, 110
Received, with a melodious sound,
The coin that purchased Paradise.

Then from the pulpit overhead,
Tetzel the monk, with fiery glow,
Thundered upon the crowd below.
"Good people all, draw near!" he
said;

"Purchase these letters, signed and
sealed,
By which all sins, though unrevealed
And unrepented, are forgiven!
Count but the gain, count not the
loss!

Your gold and silver are but dross, 121
And yet they pave the way to heaven.
I hear your mothers and your sires
Cry from their purgatorial fires,
And will ye not their ransom pay?
O senseless people! when the gate
Of heaven is open, will ye wait?
Will ye not enter in to-day?
To-morrow it will be too late;
I shall be gone upon my way. 130
Make haste! bring money while ye
may!"

The women shuddered, and turned
pale;

Allured by hope or driven by fear,
With many a sob and many a tear,
All crowded to the altar-rail.
Pieces of silver and of gold
Into the tinkling strong-box fell
Like pebbles dropped into a well;
And soon the ballads were all sold.
The cobbler's wife among the rest 140
Slipped into the capacious chest
A golden florin; then withdrew,
Hiding the paper in her breast;
And homeward through the darkness
went

Comforted, quieted, content;
She did not walk, she rather flew,
A dove that settles to her nest,
When some appalling bird of prey
That scared her has been driven away.

The days went by, the monk was gone,
The summer passed, the winter came;
Though seasons changed, yet still the
same 150

The daily round of life went on;
The daily round of household care,
The narrow life of toil and prayer.
But in her heart the cobbler's dame
Had now a treasure beyond price,
A secret joy without a name,
The certainty of Paradise.

Alas, alas! Dust unto dust! 160
Before the winter wore away,
Her body in the churchyard lay,
Her patient soul was with the Just!
After her death, among the things
That even the poor preserve with
care, —

Some little trinkets and cheap rings,
A locket with her mother's hair,
Her wedding gown, the faded flowers
She wore upon her wedding day, —
Among these memories of past hours,
That so much of the heart reveal, 171
Carefully kept and put away,
The Letter of Indulgence lay
Folded, with signature and seal.

Meanwhile the Priest, aggrieved and
pained,

Waited and wondered that no word
Of mass or requiem he heard,
As by the Holy Church ordained:
Then to the Magistrate complained,
That as this woman had been dead 180
A week or more, and no mass said,
It was rank heresy, or at least
Contempt of Church; thus said the
Priest;
And straight the cobbler was ar-
raigned.

He came, confiding in his cause,
But rather doubtful of the laws.
The Justice from his elbow-chair
Gave him a look that seemed to say:
"Thou standest before a Magistrate,
Therefore do not prevaricate!" 190
Then asked him in a business way,
Kindly but cold: "Is thy wife dead?"
The cobbler meekly bowed his head;
"She is," came struggling from his
throat

Scarce audibly. The Justice wrote
The words down in a book, and then
Continued, as he raised his pen;

"He came, confiding in his cause,
But rather doubtful of the laws"

"She is; and hath a mass been said
For the salvation of her soul?
Come, speak the truth! confess the
whole!"

The cobbler without pause replied:
"Of mass or prayer there was no need;
For at the moment when she died
Her soul was with the glorified!"
And from his pocket with all speed
He drew the priestly title-deed,
And prayed the Justice he would read.
The Justice read, amused, amazed;
And as he read his mirth increased;
At times his shaggy brows he raised,
Now wondering at the cobbler gazed,
Now archly at the angry Priest.

"From all excesses, sins, and crimes
Thou hast committed in past times
Thee I absolve! And furthermore,
Purified from all earthly taints,
To the communion of the Saints
And to the sacraments restore!
All stains of weakness, and all trace
Of shame and censure I efface;
Remit the pains thou shouldst endure,
And make thee innocent and pure,
So that in dying, unto thee
The gates of heaven shall open be!
Though long thou livest, yet this grace

Until the moment of thy death
Unchangeable continueth!"

Then said he to the Priest: "I find
This document is duly signed
Brother John Tetzels, his own hand.
At all tribunals in the land
In evidence it may be used;
Therefore acquitted is the accused."
Then to the cobbler turned: "My
friend,

Pray tell me, didst thou ever read
Reynard the Fox?" — "Oh yes, in-
deed!" —

"I thought so. Don't forget the end."

INTERLUDE

"WHAT was the end? I am ashamed
Not to remember Reynard's fate;
I have not read the book of late;
Was he not hanged?" the Poet said.
The Student gravely shook his head,
And answered: "You exaggerate.
There was a tournament proclaimed,
And Reynard fought with Isegrim
The Wolf, and having vanquished
him,

Rose to high honor in the State, 10
And Keeper of the Seals was named ! "

At this the gay Sicilian laughed :
" Fight fire with fire, and craft with
craft ;

Successful cunning seems to be
The moral of your tale," said he.
" Mine had a better, and the Jew's
Had none at all, that I could see ;
His aim was only to amuse."

Meanwhile from out its ebony case
His violin the Minstrel drew, 20
And having tuned its strings anew,
Now held it close in his embrace.
And poising in his outstretched hand
The bow, like a magician's wand,
He paused, and said, with beaming
face :

The flapping of an idle sail ;
And then by sudden and sharp degrees
The multiplied, wild harmonies
Freshened and burst into a gale ; 40
A tempest howling through the dark,
A crash as of some shipwrecked bark,
A loud and melancholy wail.

Such was the prelude to the tale
Told by the Minstrel ; and at times
He paused amid its varying rhymes,
And at each pause again broke in
The music of his violin,
With tones of sweetness or of fear,
Movements of trouble or of calm, 50
Creating their own atmosphere ;
As sitting in a church we hear
Between the verses of the psalm
The organ playing soft and clear,
Or thundering on the startled ear.

" Ready for sea, at anchor lay
The good ship Valdemar "

" Last night my story was too long ;
To-day I give you but a song,
An old tradition of the North ;
But first, to put you in the mood,
I will a little while prelude, 30
And from this instrument draw forth
Something by way of overture."

He played ; at first the tones were pure
And tender as a summer night,
The full moon climbing to her height,
The sob and ripple of the seas,

THE MUSICIAN'S TALE

THE BALLAD OF CARMILHAN

I

AT Stralsund, by the Baltic Sea,
Within the sandy bar,
At sunset of a summer's day,
Ready for sea, at anchor lay
The good ship Valdemar.

The sunbeams danced upon the waves,
And played along her side ;
And through the cabin windows
streamed
In ripples of golden light, that seemed
The ripple of the tide. 10

There sat the captain with his friends,
Old skippers brown and hale,
Who smoked and grumbled o'er their
grog,
And talked of iceberg and of fog,
Of calm and storm and gale.

And one was spinning a sailor's yarn
About Klaboterman,
The Kobold of the sea ; a spright
Invisible to mortal sight,
Who o'er the rigging ran. 20

Sometimes he hammered in the hold,
Sometimes upon the mast,
Sometimes abeam, sometimes abaft,
Or at the bows he sang and laughed,
And made all tight and fast.

He helped the sailors at their work,
And toiled with jovial din ;
He helped them hoist and reef the
sails,
He helped them stow the casks and
bales,
And heave the anchor in. 30

But woe unto the lazy louts,
The idlers of the crew ;
Them to torment was his delight,
And worry them by day and night,
And pinch them black and blue.

And woe to him whose mortal eyes
Klaboterman behold.
It is a certain sign of death ! —
The cabin-boy here held his breath,
He felt his blood run cold. 40

II

The jolly skipper paused awhile,
And then again began ;
" There is a Spectre Ship," quoth he,
" A ship of the Dead that sails the sea,
And is called the Carmilhan.

" A ghostly ship, with a ghostly crew,
In tempests she appears ;

And before the gale, or against the
gale,
She sails without a rag of sail,
Without a helmsman steers. 50

" She haunts the Atlantic north and
south,
But mostly the mid-sea,
Where three great rocks rise bleak and
bare
Like furnace chimneys in the air,
And are called the Chimneys Three.

" And ill betide the luckless ship
That meets the Carmilhan ;
Over her decks the seas will leap,
She must go down into the deep,
And perish mouse and man." 60

The captain of the Valdemar
Laughed loud with merry heart.
" I should like to see this ship," said
he ;
" I should like to find these Chimneys
Three
That are marked down in the
chart.

" I have sailed right over the spot,"
he said,
" With a good stiff breeze behind,
When the sea was blue, and the sky
was clear, —
You can follow my course by these
pinholes here, —
And never a rock could find." 70

And then he swore a dreadful oath,
He swore by the Kingdoms Three.
That, should he meet the Carmilhan,
He would run her down, although he
ran
Right into Eternity !

All this, while passing to and fro,
The cabin-boy had heard ;
He lingered at the door to hear,
And drank in all with greedy ear,
And pondered every word. 80

He was a simple country lad,
But of a roving mind.
" Oh, it must be like heaven," thought
he,
" Those far-off foreign lands to see,
And fortune seek and find ! "

But in the fo'castle, when he heard
 The mariners blaspheme,
 He thought of home, he thought of
 God,
 And his mother under the churchyard
 sod,
 And wished it were a dream. 90

One friend on board that ship had he;
 'T was the Klaboterman,
 Who saw the Bible in his chest,
 And made a sign upon his breast,
 All evil things to ban.

III

The cabin windows have grown blank
 As eyeballs of the dead;
 No more the glancing sunbeams burn
 On the gilt letters of the stern,
 But on the figure-head; 100

On Valdemar Victorious,
 Who looketh with disdain
 To see his image in the tide
 Dismembered float from side to side,
 And reunite again.

"It is the wind," those skippers said,
 "That swings the vessel so;
 It is the wind; it freshens fast,
 'T is time to say farewell at last,
 'T is time for us to go." 110

They shook the captain by the hand,
 "Good luck! good luck!" they
 cried;

Each face was like the setting sun,
 As, broad and red, they one by one
 Went o'er the vessel's side.

The sun went down, the full moon rose,
 Serene o'er field and flood;
 And all the winding creeks and bays
 And broad sea-meadows seemed ablaze,
 The sky was red as blood. 120

The southwest wind blew fresh and
 fair,
 As fair as wind could be;
 Bound for Odessa, o'er the bar,
 With all sail set, the Valdemar
 Went proudly out to sea.

The lovely moon climbs up the sky
 As one who walks in dreams;

A tower of marble in her light,
 A wall of black, a wall of white,
 The stately vessel seems. 130

Low down upon the sandy coast
 The lights begin to burn;
 And now, uplifted high in air,
 They kindle with a fiercer glare,
 And now drop far astern.

The dawn appears, the land is gone,
 The sea is all around;
 Then on each hand low hills of
 sand
 Emerge and form another land;
 She steereth through the Sound. 140

Through Kattegat and Skager-rack
 She flitteth like a ghost;
 By day and night, by night and day,
 She bounds, she flies upon her way
 Along the English coast.

Cape Finisterre is drawing near,
 Cape Finisterre is past;
 Into the open ocean stream
 She floats, the vision of a dream
 Too beautiful to last. 150

Suns rise and set, and rise, and
 yet
 There is no land in sight;
 The liquid planets overhead
 Burn brighter now the moon is dead,
 And longer stays the night.

IV

And now along the horizon's edge
 Mountains of cloud uprose,
 Black as with forests underneath,
 Above, their sharp and jagged teeth
 Were white as drifted snows. 160

Unseen behind them sank the sun,
 But flushed each snowy peak
 A little while with rosy light,
 That faded slowly from the sight
 As blushes from the cheek.

Black grew the sky, — all black, all
 black;
 The clouds were everywhere;
 There was a feeling of suspense
 In nature, a mysterious sense
 Of terror in the air. 170

And all on board the Valdemar
Was still as still could be ;
Save when the dismal ship-bell tolled,
As ever and anon she rolled,
And lurched into the sea.

The captain up and down the deck
Went striding to and fro ;
Now watched the compass at the
wheel,
Now lifted up his hand to feel
Which way the wind might blow. 180

And now he looked up at the sails,
And now upon the deep ;
In every fibre of his frame
He felt the storm before it came,
He had no thought of sleep.

Eight bells ! and suddenly abaft,
With a great rush of rain,
Making the ocean white with spume,
In darkness like the day of doom,
On came the hurricane. 190

The lightning flashed from cloud to
cloud,
And rent the sky in two ;
A jagged flame, a single jet
Of white fire, like a bayonet,
That pierced the eyeballs through.

Then all around was dark again,
And blacker than before ;
But in that single flash of light
He had beheld a fearful sight,
And thought of the oath he swore.

For right ahead lay the Ship of the
Dead, 201
The ghostly Carmilhan !
Her masts were stripped, her yards
were bare,
And on her bowsprit, poised in air,
Sat the Klaboterman.

Her crew of ghosts was all on
deck
Or clambering up the shrouds ;
The boatswain's whistle, the captain's
hail
Were like the piping of the gale,
And thunder in the clouds. 210

And close behind the Carmilhan
There rose up from the sea,

As from a foundered ship of stone,
Three bare and splintered masts alone
They were the Chimneys Three.

And onward dashed the Valdemar
And leaped into the dark ;
A denser mist, a colder blast,
A little shudder, and she had passed
Right through the Phantom Bark. 220

She cleft in twain the shadowy hulk,
But cleft it unaware ;
As when, careering to her nest,
The sea-gull severs with her breast
The unresisting air.

Again the lightning flashed ; again
They saw the Carmilhan,
Whole as before in hull and spar ;
But now on board of the Valdemar
Stood the Klaboterman. 230

And they all knew their doom was
sealed ;
They knew that death was near ;
Some prayed who never prayed before,
And some they wept, and some they
swore,
And some were mute with fear.

Then suddenly there came a shock,
And louder than wind or sea
A cry burst from the crew on deck,
As she dashed and crashed, a hopeless
wreck,
Upon the Chimneys Three. 240

The storm and night were passed, the
light
To streak the east began ;
The cabin-boy, picked up at sea,
Survived the wreck, and only he,
To tell of the Carmilhan.

INTERLUDE

WHEN the long murmur of applause
That greeted the Musician's lay
Had slowly buzzed itself away,
And the long talk of Spectre Ships
That followed died upon their lips
And came unto a natural pause,
"These tales you tell are one and
all
Of the Old World," the Poet said,

"As she dashed and crashed, a hopeless wreck,
Upon the Chimneys Three"

"Flowers gathered from a crumbling
wall,
Dead leaves that rustle as they fall ; 10
Let me present you in their stead
Something of our New England earth,
A tale, which, though of no great
worth,
Has still this merit, that it yields
A certain freshness of the fields,
A sweetness as of home-made bread."

The Student answered : "Be discreet;
For if the flour be fresh and sound,
And if the bread be light and sweet,
Who careth in what mill 't was ground,
Or of what oven felt the heat, 21
Unless, as old Cervantes said,
You are looking after better bread

Than any that is made of wheat ?
You know that people nowadays
To what is old give little praise ;
All must be new in prose and verse ;
They want hot bread, or something
worse,
Fresh every morning, and half baked ;
The wholesome bread of yesterday, 30
Too stale for them, is thrown away,
Nor is their thirst with water slaked."

As oft we see the sky in May
Threaten to rain, and yet not rain,
The Poet's face, before so gay,
Was clouded with a look of pain,
But suddenly brightened up again ;
And without further let or stay
He told his tale of yesterday.

THE POET'S TALE

LADY WENTWORTH

ONE hundred years ago, and some-
 thing more,
 In Queen Street, Portsmouth, at her
 tavern door,
 Neat as a pin, and blooming as a rose,
 Stood Mistress Stavers in her furbelows,
 Just as her cuckoo-clock was striking
 nine.
 Above her head, resplendent on the
 sign,
 The portrait of the Earl of Halifax,
 In scarlet coat and periwig of flax,
 Surveyed at leisure all her varied
 charms,
 Her cap, her bodice, her white folded
 arms,
 And half resolved, though he was past
 his prime,
 And rather damaged by the lapse of
 time,
 To fall down at her feet, and to de-
 clare
 The passion that had driven him to
 despair.
 For from his lofty station he had seen
 Stavers, her husband, dressed in
 bottle-green,
 Drive his new Flying Stage-coach,
 four in hand,
 Down the long lane, and out into the
 land,
 And knew that he was far upon the
 way
 To Ipswich and to Boston on the Bay!

Just then the meditations of the Earl
 Were interrupted by a little girl,
 Barefooted, ragged, with neglected
 hair,
 Eyes full of laughter, neck and shoul-
 ders bare,
 A thin slip of a girl, like a new moon,
 Sure to be rounded into beauty soon,
 A creature men would worship and
 adore,
 Though now in mean habiliments she
 bore
 A pail of water, dripping through the
 street,
 And bathing, as she went, her naked
 feet.

It was a pretty picture, full of grace, —
 The slender form, the delicate, thin
 face ;
 The swaying motion, as she hurried by ;
 The shining feet, the laughter in her
 eye,
 That o'er her face in ripples gleamed
 and glanced,
 As in her pail the shifting sunbeam
 danced :
 And with uncommon feelings of de-
 light
 The Earl of Halifax beheld the sight.
 Not so Dame Stavers, for he heard her
 say
 These words, or thought he did, as
 plain as day :
 " O Martha Hilton! Fie! how dare
 you go
 About the town half dressed, and look-
 ing so!"
 At which the gypsy laughed, and
 straight replied:
 " No matter how I look ; I yet shall
 ride
 In my own chariot, ma'am." And on
 the child
 The Earl of Halifax benignly smiled,
 As with her heavy burden she passed
 on,
 Looked back, then turned the corner,
 and was gone.

What next, upon that memorable day,
 Arrested his attention was a gay
 And brilliant equipage, that flashed
 and spun,
 The silver harness glittering in the
 sun,
 Outriders with red jackets, lithe and
 lank,
 Pounding the saddles as they rose and
 sank,
 While all alone within the chariot sat
 A portly person with three-cornered
 hat,
 A crimson velvet coat, head high in air,
 Gold-headed cane, and nicely pow-
 dered hair,
 And diamond buckles sparkling at his
 knees,
 Dignified, stately, florid, much at ease.
 Onward the pageant swept, and as it
 passed,
 Fair Mistress Stavers courtesied low
 and fast ;

"No matter how I look; I yet shall ride
In my own chariot, ma'am"

For this was Governor Wentworth,
driving down
To Little Harbor, just beyond the
town,
Where his Great House stood looking
out to sea,
A goodly place, where it was good to
be.

It was a pleasant mansion, an abode
Near and yet hidden from the great
high-road,
Sequestered among trees, a noble
pile,
Baronial and colonial in its style; 70
Gables and dormer-windows every-
where,
And stacks of chimneys rising high in
air, --
Pandæan pipes, on which all winds
that blew
Made mournful music the whole win-
ter through.

Within, unwonted splendors met the
eye,
Panels, and floors of oak, and tapes-
try;
Carved chimney-pieces, where on
brazen dogs
Revelled and roared the Christmas fires
of logs;
Doors opening into darkness unawares,
Mysterious passages, and flights of
stairs; 80
And on the walls, in heavy gilded
frames,
The ancestral Wentworths with Old-
Scripture names.

Such was the mansion where the great
man dwelt,
A widower and childless; and he
felt
The loneliness, the uncongenial gloom,
That like a presence haunted every
room;

For though not given to weakness, he
could feel

The pain of wounds, that ache because
they heal.

The years came and the years went, —
seven in all,

And passed in cloud and sunshine o'er
the Hall;

The dawns their splendor through its
chambers shed,

The sunsets flushed its western win-
dows red;

The snow was on its roofs, the wind,
the rain;

Its woodlands were in leaf and bare
again,

Moons waxed and waned, the lilacs
bloomed and died,

In the broad river ebbed and flowed
the tide,

Ships went to sea, and ships came
home from sea,

And the slow years sailed by and
ceased to be.

And all these years had Martha Hilton
served

In the Great House, not wholly un-
observed:

By day, by night, the silver crescent
grew,

Though hidden by clouds, her light
still shining through;

A maid of all work, whether coarse or
fine,

A servant who made service seem di-
vine!

Through her each room was fair to
look upon;

The mirrors glistened, and the brasses
shone,

The very knocker on the outer door,
If she but passed, was brighter than
before.

And now the ceaseless turning of the
mill

Of time, that never for an hour stands
still,

Ground out the Governor's sixtieth
birthday,

And powdered his brown hair with
silver-gray.

The robin, the forerunner of the
spring,

The bluebird with his jocund carol-
ling,

The restless swallows building in the
eaves,

The golden buttercups, the grass, the leaves,
 The lilacs tossing in the winds of May,
 All welcomed this majestic holiday!
 He gave a splendid banquet, served
 on plate,
 Such as became the Governor of the
 State, ¹²⁰
 Who represented England and the
 King,
 And was magnificent in everything.
 He had invited all his friends and
 peers, —
 The Pepperels, the Langdons, and the
 Lears,
 The Sparhawks, the Penhallows, and
 the rest;
 For why repeat the name of every
 guest?
 But I must mention one in bands and
 gown,
 The rector there, the Reverend Arthur
 Brown
 Of the Established Church; with smil-
 ing face
 He sat beside the Governor and said
 grace; ¹³⁰
 And then the feast went on, as others
 do,
 But ended as none other I e'er knew.
 When they had drunk the King, with
 many a cheer,
 The Governor whispered in a servant's
 ear,
 Who disappeared, and presently there
 stood
 Within the room, in perfect woman-
 hood,
 A maiden, modest and yet self-pos-
 sessed,
 Youthful and beautiful, and simply
 dressed.
 Can this be Martha Hilton? It must
 be!
 Yes, Martha Hilton, and no other she!
 Dowered with the beauty of her
 twenty years, ¹⁴¹
 How ladylike, how queenlike she ap-
 pears;
 The pale, thin crescent of the days
 gone by
 Is Dian now in all her majesty!
 Yet scarce a guest perceived that she
 was there,
 Until the Governor, rising from his
 chair,

Played slightly with his ruffles, then
 looked down,
 And said unto the Reverend Arthur
 Brown:
 "This is my birthday: it shall like-
 wise be
 My wedding-day; and you shall marry
 me!" ¹⁵⁰

The listening guests were greatly mys-
 tified,
 None more so than the rector, who re-
 plied:
 "Marry you? Yes, that were a plea-
 sant task,
 Your Excellency; but to whom? I
 ask."
 The Governor answered: "To this
 lady here;"
 And beckoned Martha Hilton to draw
 near.
 She came and stood, all blushes, at his
 side.
 The rector paused. The impatient
 Governor cried:
 "This is the lady; do you hesi-
 tate?"
 Then I command you as Chief Magis-
 trate." ¹⁶⁰
 The rector read the service loud and
 clear:
 "Dearly beloved, we are gathered
 here,"
 And so on to the end. At his com-
 mand
 On the fourth finger of her fair left
 hand
 The Governor placed the ring; and
 that was all:
 Martha was Lady Wentworth of the
 Hall!

INTERLUDE

WELL pleased the audience heard the
 tale.
 The Theologian said: "Indeed,
 To praise you there is little need;
 One almost hears the farmer's flail
 Thresh out your wheat, nor does there
 fail
 A certain freshness, as you said,
 And sweetness as of home-made bread.
 But not less sweet and not less fresh
 Are many legends that I know,

Writ by the monks of long-ago, 10
 Who loved to mortify the flesh,
 So that the soul might purer grow,
 And rise to a diviner state ;
 And one of these — perhaps of all
 Most beautiful — I now recall,
 And with permission will narrate ;
 Hoping thereby to make amends
 For that grim tragedy of mine,
 As strong and black as Spanish wine,
 I told last night, and wish almost 20
 It had remained untold, my friends ;
 For Torquemada's awful ghost
 Came to me in the dreams I dreamed,
 And in the darkness glared and
 gleamed
 Like a great lighthouse on the coast."

The Student laughing said: "Far
 more
 Like to some dismal fire of bale
 Flaring portentous on a hill ;
 Or torches lighted on a shore
 By wreckers in a midnight gale. 30
 No matter ; be it as you will,
 Only go forward with your tale."

THE THEOLOGIAN'S TALE

THE LEGEND BEAUTIFUL

"HADST thou stayed, I must have
 fled!"
 That is what the Vision said.

In his chamber all alone,
 Kneeling on the floor of stone,
 Prayed the Monk in deep contrition
 For his sins of indecision,
 Prayed for greater self-denial
 In temptation and in trial ;
 It was noonday by the dial,
 And the Monk was all alone. 10

Suddenly, as if it lightened,
 An unwonted splendor brightened
 All within him and without him
 In that narrow cell of stone ;
 And he saw the Blessed Vision
 Of our Lord, with light Elysian
 Like a vesture wrapped about Him,
 Like a garment round Him thrown.

Not as crucified and slain,
 Not in agonies of pain, 20

Not with bleeding hands and feet,
 Did the Monk his Master see ;
 But as in the village street,
 In the house or harvest-field,
 Halt and lame and blind He healed,
 When He walked in Galilee.

In an attitude imploring,
 Hands upon his bosom crossed,
 Wondering, worshipping, adoring,
 Knelt the Monk in rapture lost. 30
 Lord, he thought, in heaven that
 reignest,
 Who am I, that thus thou deignest
 To reveal thyself to me ?
 Who am I, that from the centre
 Of thy glory thou shouldst enter
 This poor cell, my guest to be ?

Then amid his exaltation,
 Loud the convent bell appalling,
 From its belfry calling, calling,
 Rang through court and corridor 40
 With persistent iteration
 He had never heard before.
 It was now the appointed hour
 When alike in shine or shower,
 Winter's cold or summer's heat,
 To the convent portals came
 All the blind and halt and lame,
 All the beggars of the street,
 For their daily dole of food
 Dealt them by the brotherhood ; 50
 And their almoner was he
 Who upon his bended knee,
 Rapt in silent ecstasy
 Of divinest self-surrender,
 Saw the Vision and the Splendor.

Deep distress and hesitation
 Mingled with his adoration ;
 Should he go or should he stay ?
 Should he leave the poor to wait
 Hungry at the convent gate, 60
 Till the Vision passed away ?
 Should he slight his radiant guest,
 Slight this visitant celestial,
 For a crowd of ragged, bestial
 Beggars at the convent gate ?
 Would the Vision there remain ?
 Would the Vision come again ?
 Then a voice within his breast
 Whispered, audible and clear
 As if to the outward ear : 70
 "Do thy duty ; that is best ;
 Leave unto thy Lord the rest !"

"To the convent portals came
All the blind and halt and lame"

Straightway to his feet he started,
And with longing look intent
On the Blessed Vision bent,
Slowly from his cell departed,
Slowly on his errand went.

At the gate the poor were waiting,
Looking through the iron grating,
With that terror in the eye
That is only seen in those
Who amid their wants and woes
Hear the sound of doors that close,
And of feet that pass them by;
Grown familiar with disfavor,
Grown familiar with the savor
Of the bread by which men die!
But to-day, they know not why,
Like the gate of Paradise
Seemed the convent gate to rise,
Like a sacrament divine
Seemed to them the bread and wine.

In his heart the Monk was praying,
Thinking of the homeless poor,
What they suffer and endure;
What we see not, what we see;
And the inward voice was saying:
"Whatsoever thing thou doest
To the least of mine and lowest,
That thou doest unto me!"

100

Unto me! but had the Vision
Come to him in beggar's clothing,
Come a mendicant imploring,
Would he then have knelt adoring,
Or have listened with derision,
And have turned away with loathing?

Thus his conscience put the question,
Full of troublesome suggestion,
As at length, with hurried pace,
Towards his cell he turned his face,

110

And beheld the convent bright.
With a supernatural light,
Like a luminous cloud expanding
Over floor and wall and ceiling.

But he paused with awe-struck feel-
ing

At the threshold of his door,
For the Vision still was standing
As he left it there before,
When the convent bell appalling,
From its belfry calling, calling, 120
Summoned him to feed the poor.
Through the long hour intervening
It had waited his return.
And he felt his bosom burn,
Comprehending all the meaning,
When the Blessed Vision said,
"Hadst thou stayed, I must have
fled!"

INTERLUDE

ALL praised the Legend more or less;
Some liked the moral, some the verse;
Some thought it better, and some
worse
Than other legends of the past;
Until, with ill-concealed distress
At all their cavilling, at last
The Theologian gravely said:
"The Spanish proverb, then, is right;
Consult your friends on what you do,
And one will say that it is white, 10
And others say that it is red."
And "Amen!" quoth the Spanish
Jew.

"Six stories told! We must have
seven,
A cluster like the Pleiades,
And lo! it happens, as with these,
That one is missing from our heaven.
Where is the Landlord? Bring him
here;
Let the Lost Pleiad reappear."

Thus the Sicilian cried, and went
Forthwith to seek his missing star, 20
But did not find him in the bar,
A place that landlords most frequent,
Nor yet beside the kitchen fire,
Nor up the stairs, nor in the hall;
It was in vain to ask or call,
There were no tidings of the Squire.

So he came back with downcast head,
Exclaiming: "Well, our bashful host
Hath surely given up the ghost.
Another proverb says the dead 30
Can tell no tales; and that is true.
It follows, then, that one of you
Must tell a story in his stead.
You must," he to the Student said,
"Who know so many of the best,
And tell them better than the rest."

Straight, by these flattering words be
guiled,
The Student, happy as a child
When he is called a little man,
Assumed the double task imposed, 40
And without more ado unclosed
His smiling lips, and thus began.

THE STUDENT'S SECOND TALE

THE BARON OF ST. CASTINE

BARON CASTINE of St. Castine
Has left his château in the Pyrenees,
And sailed across the western seas.
When he went away from his fair
demesne
The birds were building, the woods
were green;
And now the winds of winter blow
Round the turrets of the old château,
The birds are silent and unseen,
The leaves lie dead in the ravine,
And the Pyrenees are white, with
snow. 10

His father, lonely, old, and gray,
Sits by the fireside day by day,
Thinking ever one thought of care;
Through the southern windows, nar-
row and tall,
The sun shines into the ancient hall,
And makes a glory round his hair.
The house-dog, stretched beneath his
chair,
Groans in his sleep, as if in pain,
Then wakes, and yawns, and sleeps
again,
So silent is it everywhere, — 20
So silent you can hear the mouse
Run and rummage along the beams
Behind the wainscot of the wall;
And the old man rouses from his
dreams,

And wanders restless through the
house,
As if he heard strange voices call.

His footsteps echo along the floor
Of a distant passage, and pause
awhile;

He is standing by an open door
Looking long, with a sad, sweet smile,
Into the room of his absent son. 31

There is the bed on which he lay,
There are the pictures bright and gay,
Horses and hounds and sunlit seas;
There are his powder-flask and gun,
And his hunting-knives in shape of a
fan;

The chair by the window where he sat,
With the clouded tiger-skin for a mat,

Looking out on the Pyrenees,
Looking out on Mount Marboré 40
And the Seven Valleys of Lavedan.
Ah me! he turns away and sighs;
There is a mist before his eyes.

At night, whatever the weather be,
Wind or rain or starry heaven,
Just as the clock is striking seven,
Those who look from the windows
see

The village Curate, with lantern and
maid,

Come through the gateway from the
park

And cross the courtyard damp and
dark, — 50

A ring of light in a ring of shade.

"His father, lonely, old and gray,
Sits by the fireside day by day"

And now at the old man's side he
stands,
His voice is cheery, his heart expands,
He gossips pleasantly, by the blaze
Of the fire of fagots, about old days,
And Cardinal Mazarin and the Fronde,
And the Cardinal's nieces fair and
fond,
And what they did, and what they
said,
When they heard his Eminence was
dead.

And after a pause the old man says, 60
His mind still coming back again
To the one sad thought that haunts
his brain,

"Are there any tidings from over
sea?

Ah, why has that wild boy gone from
me?"

And the Curate answers, looking
down,

Harmless and docile as a lamb,
"Young blood! young blood! It
must so be!"

And draws from the pocket of his
gown

A handkerchief like an oriflamb,
And wipes his spectacles, and they
play 70

Their little game of lansquenet
In silence for an hour or so,
Till the clock at nine strikes loud and
clear

From the village lying asleep below,
And across the courtyard, into the
dark

Of the winding pathway in the park,
Curate and lantern disappear,
And darkness reigns in the old châ-
teau.

The ship has come back from over
sea,

She has been signalled from below, 80
And into the harbor of Bordeaux
She sails with her gallant company.
But among them is nowhere seen
The brave young Baron of St. Castine;
He hath tarried behind, I ween,
In the beautiful land of Acadie!

And the father paces to and fro
Through the chambers of the old châ-
teau,

Waiting, waiting to hear the hum
Of wheels on the road that runs be-
low, 90

Of servants hurrying here and there,
The voice in the courtyard, the step
on the stair,

Waiting for some one who doth not
come!

But letters there are, which the old
man reads

To the Curate, when he comes at
night,

Word by word, as an acolyte
Repeats his prayers and tells his
beads;

Letters full of the rolling sea,
Full of a young man's joy to be
Abroad in the world, alone and free;
Full of adventures and wonderful
scenes 101

Of hunting the deer through forests
vast

In the royal grant of Pierre du Gast;
Of nights in the tents of the Tarra-
tines;

Of Madocawando the Indian chief,
And his daughters, glorious as queens,
And beautiful beyond belief;
And so soft the tones of their native
tongue,

The words are not spoken, they are
sung!

And the Curate listens, and smiling
says: 110

"Ah yes, dear friend! in our young
days

We should have liked to hunt the
deer

All day amid those forest scenes,
And to sleep in the tents of the Tarra-
tines;

But now it is better sitting here
Within four walls, and without the
fear

Of losing our hearts to Indian queens;
For man is fire and woman is tow,
And the Somebody comes and begins
to blow."

Then a gleam of distrust and vague
surmise 120

Shines in the father's gentle eyes,
As fire-light on a window-pane
Glimmers and vanishes again;
But naught he answers; he only sighs,
And for a moment bows his head;

"Speeding along the woodland way"

Then, as their custom is, they play
Their little game of lansquenet,
And another day is with the dead.

Another day, and many a day
And many a week and month depart,
When a fatal letter wings its way ¹³¹
Across the sea, like a bird of prey,
And strikes and tears the old man's
heart.

Lo! the young Baron of St. Castine,
Swift as the wind is, and as wild,
Has married a dusky Tarratine,
Has married Madocawando's child!

The letter drops from the father's
hand;
Though the sinews of his heart are
wrung,

He utters no cry, he breathes no
prayer, ¹⁴⁰

No malediction falls from his tongue;
But his stately figure, erect and grand,
Bends and sinks like a column of sand
In the whirlwind of his great despair.
Dying, yes, dying! His latest breath
Of parley at the door of death
Is a blessing on his wayward son.
Lower and lower on his breast
Sinks his gray head: he is at rest;
No longer he waits for any one. ¹⁵⁰

For many a year the old château
Lies tenantless and desolate;
Rank grasses in the courtyard grow,
About its gables caws the crow;
Only the porter at the gate
Is left to guard it, and to wait

The coming of the rightful heir ;
 No other life or sound is there ;
 No more the Curate comes at night,
 No more is seen the unsteady light, 160
 Threading the alleys of the park ;
 The windows of the hall are dark,
 The chambers dreary, cold, and bare !

At length, at last, when the winter is
 past,
 And birds are building, and woods are
 green,

With flying skirts is the Curate seen
 Speeding along the woodland way,
 Humming gayly, " No day is so long
 But it comes at last to vesper-song."
 He stops at the porter's lodge to say 170
 That at last the Baron of St. Castine
 Is coming home with his Indian queen,
 Is coming without a week's delay ;
 And all the house must be swept and
 clean,

And all things set in good array !
 And the solemn porter shakes his head ;
 And the answer he makes is : " Lack-
 aday !
 We will see, as the blind man said ! "

Alert since first the day began,
 The cock upon the village church 180
 Looks northward from his airy perch,
 As if beyond the ken of man
 To see the ships come sailing on,
 And pass the Isle of Oléron,
 And pass the Tower of Cordouan.

In the church below is cold in clay
 The heart that would have leaped for
 joy —

O tender heart of truth and trust ! —
 To see the coming of that day ; 189
 In the church below the lips are dust ;
 Dust are the hands, and dust the feet
 That would have been so swift to
 meet

The coming of that wayward boy.

At night the front of the old château
 Is a blaze of light above and below ;
 There's a sound of wheels and hoofs
 in the street,
 A cracking of whips, and scamper of
 feet,
 Bells are ringing, and horns are blown,
 And the Baron hath come again to his
 own.

The Curate is waiting in the hall, 200
 Most eager and alive of all
 To welcome the Baron and Baroness :
 But his mind is full of vague distress,
 For he hath read in Jesuit books
 Of those children of the wilderness,
 And now, good, simple man ! he looks
 To see a painted savage stride
 Into the room, with shoulders bare,
 And eagle feathers in her hair,
 And around her a robe of panther's
 hide. 210

Instead, he beholds with secret shame
 A form of beauty undefined,
 A loveliness without a name,
 Not of degree, but more of kind ;
 Nor bold nor shy, nor short nor tall,
 But a new mingling of them all.
 Yes, beautiful beyond belief.
 Transfigured and transfused, he sees
 The lady of the Pyrenees,
 The daughter of the Indian chief. 220
 Beneath the shadow of her hair
 The gold-bronze color of the skin
 Seems lighted by a fire within,
 As when a burst of sunlight shines
 Beneath a sombre grove of pines, —
 A dusky splendor in the air.
 The two small hands, that now are
 pressed

In his, seem made to be caressed,
 They lie so warm and soft and still,
 Like birds half hidden in a nest, 230
 Trustful, and innocent of ill.
 And ah ! he cannot believe his ears
 When her melodious voice he hears
 Speaking his native Gascon tongue ;
 The words she utters seem to be
 Part of some poem of Goudouli,
 They are not spoken, they are sung !
 And the Baron smiles, and says, " You
 see,

I told you but the simple truth ;
 Ah, you may trust the eyes of youth ! "

Down in the village day by day 241
 The people gossip in their way,
 And stared to see the Baroness pass
 On Sunday morning to early mass ;
 And when she kneeleth down to pray,
 They wonder, and whisper together,
 and say
 " Surely this is no heathen lass ! "
 And in course of time they learn to bless
 The Baron and the Baroness.

And in course of time the Curate learns
A secret so dreadful, that by turns ²⁵¹
He is ice and fire, he freezes and burns.
The Baron at confession hath said,
That though this woman be his wife,
He hath wed her as the Indians wed,
He hath bought her for a gun and a
knife!

And the Curate replies: "O profligate,
O Prodigal Son! return once more
To the open arms and the open door
Of the Church, or ever it be too late.
Thank God, thy father did not live ²⁶¹
To see what he could not forgive;
On thee, so reckless and perverse,
He left his blessing, not his curse.
But the nearer the dawn the darker
the night,
And by going wrong all things come
right;
Things have been mended that were
worse,
And the worse, the nearer they are to
mend.
For the sake of the living and the
dead,
Thou shalt be wed as Christians wed,
And all things come to a happy end."

O sun, that followest the night, ²⁷²
In yon blue sky, serene and pure,
And pourest thine impartial light
Alike on mountain and on moor,
Pause for a moment in thy course,
And bless the bridegroom and the
bride!

O Gave, that from thy hidden source
In yon mysterious mountain-side
Pursuest thy wandering way alone, ²⁸⁰
And leaping down its steps of stone,
Along the meadow-lands demure
Stealest away to the Adour,
Pause for a moment in thy course
To bless the bridegroom and the bride!

The choir is singing the matin song,
The doors of the church are opened
wide,
The people crowd, and press, and
throng ²⁸⁸
To see the bridegroom and the bride.
They enter and pass along the nave;
They stand upon the father's grave;
The bells are ringing soft and slow;
The living above and the dead below
Give their blessing on one and twain;

The warm wind blows from the hills
of Spain,
The birds are building, the leaves are
green,
And Baron Castine of St. Castine
Hath come at last to his own again.

FINALE

"Nunc plaudite!" the Student cried,
When he had finished; "now applaud,
As Roman actors used to say
At the conclusion of a play;"
And rose, and spread his hands abroad,
And smiling bowed from side to
side,
As one who bears the palm away.

And generous was the applause and
loud,
But less for him than for the sun,
That even as the tale was done ¹⁰
Burst from its canopy of cloud,
And lit the landscape with the blaze
Of afternoon on autumn days,
And filled the room with light, and
made
The fire of logs a painted shade.

A sudden wind from out the west
Blew all its trumpets loud and shrill;
The windows rattled with the blast,
The oak-trees shouted as it passed,
And straight, as if by fear possessed,
The cloud encampment on the hill ²¹
Broke up, and fluttering flag and
tent
Vanished into the firmament,
And down the valley fled amain
The rear of the retreating rain.

Only far up in the blue sky
A mass of clouds, like drifted snow
Suffused with a faint Alpine glow,
Was heaped together, vast and high,
On which a shattered rainbow hung,
Not rising like the ruined arch ^{3.}
Of some aerial aqueduct,
But like a roseate garland plucked
From an Olympian god, and flung
Aside in his triumphal march.

Like prisoners from their dungeon
gloom,
Like birds escaping from a snare,

Like school-boys at the hour of play,
All left at once the pent-up room,
And rushed into the open air ; 40
And no more tales were told that day.

PART THIRD

PRELUDE

THE evening came ; the golden vane
A moment in the sunset glanced,
Then darkened, and then gleamed
again,
As from the east the moon advanced
And touched it with a softer light ;
While underneath, with flowing mane,
Upon the sign the Red Horse pranced,
And galloped forth into the night.

But brighter than the afternoon
That followed the dark day of rain, 10
And brighter than the golden vane
That glistened in the rising moon,
Within, the ruddy fire-light gleamed ;
And every separate window-pane,
Backed by the outer darkness, showed
A mirror, where the flamelets gleamed
And flickered to and fro, and seemed
A bonfire lighted in the road.

Amid the hospitable glow,
Like an old actor on the stage, 20
With the uncertain voice of age,
The singing chimney chanted low
The homely songs of long ago.

The voice that Ossian heard of yore,
When midnight winds were in his hall ;
A ghostly and appealing call,
A sound of days that are no more !
And dark as Ossian sat the Jew,
And listened to the sound, and knew
The passing of the airy hosts, 30
The gray and misty cloud of ghosts
In their interminable flight ;
And listening muttered in his beard,
With accent indistinct and weird,
“ Who are ye, children of the Night ? ”

Beholding his mysterious face,
“ Tell me,” the gay Sicilian said,
“ Why was it that in breaking bread
At supper, you bent down your head
And, musing, paused a little space, 40
As one who says a silent grace ? ”

The Jew replied, with solemn air,
“ I said the Manichæan’s prayer.
It was his faith, — perhaps is mine,
That life in all its forms is one,
And that its secret conduits run
Unseen, but in unbroken line,
From the great fountain-head divine
Through man and beast, through
grain and grass.
Howe’er we struggle, strive, and cry,
From death there can be no escape, 51
And no escape from life, alas !
Because we cannot die, but pass
From one into another shape :
It is but into life we die.

“ Therefore the Manichæan said
This simple prayer on breaking bread,
Lest he with hasty hand or knife
Might wound the incarcerated life,
The soul in things that we call
dead : 60
‘ I did not reap thee, did not bind
thee,
I did not thrash thee, did not grind
thee,
Nor did I in the oven bake thee !
It was not I, it was another
Did these things unto thee, O brother ;
I only have thee, hold thee, break
thee ! ’ ”

“ That birds have souls I can con-
cede,”
The Poet cried, with glowing cheeks ,
“ The flocks that from their beds of
reed
Uprising north or southward fly, 70
And flying write upon the sky
The biforked letter of the Greeks,
As hath been said by Rucellai ;
All birds that sing or chirp or cry,
Even those migratory bands,
The minor poets of the air,
The plover, peep, and sanderling,
That hardly can be said to sing,
But pipe along the barren sands, —
All these have souls akin to ours ; 80
So hath the lovely race of flowers :
Thus much I grant, but nothing
more.

The rusty hinges of a door
Are not alive because they creak :
This chimney, with its dreary roar,
These rattling windows, do not
speak ! ”

"To me they speak," the Jew replied;
 "And in the sounds that sink and
 soar,
 I hear the voices of a tide
 That breaks upon an unknown
 shore!" 90

Here the Sicilian interfered:

"That was your dream, then, as you
 dozed
 A moment since, with eyes half-
 closed,
 And murmured something in your
 beard."
 The Hebrew smiled, and answered,
 "Nay;

Not that, but something very near;
 Like, and yet not the same, may seem
 The vision of my waking dream;
 Before it wholly dies away,
 Listen to me, and you shall hear." 100

THE SPANISH JEW'S TALE

AZRAEL

KING SOLOMON, before his palace gate
 At evening, on the pavement tessellate
 Was walking with a stranger from
 the East,
 Arrayed in rich attire as for a feast,

"What is yon shape, that, pallid as the dead,
 Is watching me?" . . .

The mighty Runjeet-Sing, a learned
man,
And Rajah of the realms of Hindos-
tan.
And as they walked the guest became
aware
Of a white figure in the twilight
air,
Gazing intent, as one who with sur-
prise
His form and features seemed to
recognize;
And in a whisper to the king he
said:
"What is yon shape, that, pallid as
the dead,
Is watching me, as if he sought to
trace
In the dim light the features of my
face?"

The king looked, and replied: "I
know him well;
It is the Angel men call Azrael,
'T is the Death Angel; what hast thou
to fear?"
And the guest answered: "Lest he
should come near,
And speak to me, and take away my
breath!
Save me from Azrael, save me from
death!
O king, that hast dominion o'er the
wind,
Bid it arise and bear me hence to
Ind."

The king gazed upward at the cloud-
less sky,
Whispered a word, and raised his
hand on high,
And lo! the signet-ring of chryso-
prase
On his uplifted finger seemed to blaze
With hidden fire, and rushing from
the west
There came a mighty wind, and seized
the guest
And lifted him from earth, and on they
passed,
His shining garments streaming in
the blast,
A silken banner o'er the walls up-
reared,
A purple cloud, that gleamed and dis-
appeared.

Then said the Angel, smiling: "If
this man
Be Rajah Runjeet - Sing of Hindo-
stan,
Thou hast done well in listening to his
prayer;
I was upon my way to seek him
there."

INTERLUDE

"O EDREHI, forbear to-night
Your ghostly legends of affright,
And let the Talmud rest in peace;
Spare us your dismal tales of death
That almost take away one's breath;
So doing, may your tribe increase."

Thus the Sicilian said; then went
And on the spinet's rattling keys
Played Marianina, like a breeze
From Naples and the Southern seas,
That brings us the delicious scent
Of citron and of orange trees,
And memories of soft days of ease
At Capri and Amalfi spent.

"Not so," the eager Poet said;
"At least, not so before I tell
The story of my Azrael,
An angel mortal as ourselves,
Which in an ancient tome I found
Upon a convent's dusty shelves,
Chained with an iron chain, and bound
In parchment, and with clasps of
brass,
Lest from its prison, some dark day,
It might be stolen or steal away,
While the good friars were singing
mass.

"It is a tale of Charlemagne,
When like a thunder-cloud, that low-
ers
And sweeps from mountain-crest to
coast,
With lightning flaming through its
showers,
He swept across the Lombard plain,
Beleaguering with his warlike train
Pavia, the country's pride and boast,
The City of the Hundred Towers."

Thus heralded the tale began,
And thus in sober measure ran.

THE POET'S TALE

CHARLEMAGNE

OLGER the Dane and Desiderio,
 King of the Lombards, on a lofty
 tower
 Stood gazing northward o'er the roll-
 ing plains,
 League after league of harvests, to the
 foot
 Of the snow-crested Alps, and saw ap-
 proach
 A mighty army, thronging all the
 roads
 That led into the city. And the King
 Said unto Olger, who had passed his
 youth
 As hostage at the court of France,
 and knew
 The Emperor's form and face: "Is
 Charlemagne¹⁰
 Among that host?" And Olger an-
 swered: "No."

And still the innumerable multitude
 Flowed onward and increased, until
 the King
 Cried in amazement: "Surely Charle-
 magne
 Is coming in the midst of all these
 knights!"
 And Olger answered slowly: "No; not
 yet;
 He will not come so soon." Then
 much disturbed
 King Desiderio asked: "What shall
 we do,
 If he approach with a still greater
 army?"
 And Olger answered: "When he shall
 appear,²⁰
 You will behold what manner of man
 he is;
 But what will then befall us I know
 not."

Then came the guard that never knew
 repose,
 The Paladins of France; and at the
 sight
 The Lombard King o'ercome with
 terror cried:
 "This must be Charlemagne!" and as
 before
 Did Olger answer: "No; not yet, not
 yet."

And then appeared in panoply com-
 plete
 The Bishops and the Abbots and the
 Priests
 Of the imperial chapel, and the Counts;
 And Desiderio could no more endure
 The light of day, nor yet encounter
 death,³²
 But sobbed aloud and said: "Let us
 go down
 And hide us in the bosom of the earth,
 Far from the sight and anger of a
 foe
 So terrible as this!" And Olger said:
 "When you behold the harvests in
 the fields
 Shaking with fear, the Po and the
 Ticino
 Lashing the city walls with iron waves,
 Then may you know that Charlemagne
 is come."⁴⁰
 And even as he spake, in the north-
 west,
 Lo! there uprose a black and threat-
 ening cloud,
 Out of whose bosom flashed the light
 of arms
 Upon the people pent up in the city;
 A light more terrible than any dark-
 ness,
 And Charlemagne appeared; — a Man
 of Iron!

His helmet was of iron, and his gloves
 Of iron, and his breastplate and his
 greaves
 And tassets were of iron, and his
 shield.
 In his left hand he held an iron spear,
 In his right hand his sword invinci-
 ble.⁵¹
 The horse he rode on had the strength
 of iron,
 And color of iron. All who went be-
 fore him,
 Beside him and behind him, his whole
 host,
 Were armed with iron, and their hearts
 within them
 Were stronger than the armor that
 they wore.
 The fields and all the roads were filled
 with iron,
 And points of iron glistened in the sun
 And shed a terror through the city
 streets.

“ And Charlemagne appeared ; — a Man of Iron ! ”

This at a single glance Olger the
Dane
Saw from the tower, and turning to
the King
Exclaimed in haste: “ Behold! this is
the man
You looked for with such eagerness! ”
and then
Fell as one dead at Desiderio’s feet.

INTERLUDE

WELL pleased all listened to the tale,
That drew, the Student said, its pith
And marrow from the ancient myth
Of some one with an iron flail;
Or that portentous Man of Brass
Hephæstus made in days of yore,
Who stalked about the Cretan shore,
And saw the ships appear and pass,
And threw stones at the Argonauts,

Being filled with indiscriminate ire
That tangled and perplexed his
thoughts;
But, like a hospitable host,
When strangers landed on the coast,
Heated himself red-hot with fire,
And hugged them in his arms, and
pressed
Their bodies to his burning breast.

The Poet answered: “ No, not thus
The legend rose; it sprang at first
Out of the hunger and the thirst
In all men for the marvellous,
And thus it filled and satisfied
The imagination of mankind,
And this ideal to the mind
Was truer than historic fact.
Fancy enlarged and multiplied
The terrors of the awful name
Of Charlemagne, till he became
Armipotent in every act,

And, clothed in mystery, appeared
Not what men saw, but what they
feared. 30

"Besides, unless my memory fail,
Your some one with an iron flail
Is not an ancient myth at all,
But comes much later on the scene
As Talus in the Faerie Queene,
The iron groom of Artegall,
Who threshed out falsehood and de-
ceit,
And truth upheld, and righted wrong,
And was, as is the swallow, fleet,
And as the lion is, was strong." 40

The Theologian said: "Perchance
Your chronicler in writing this
Had in his mind the Anabasis,
Where Xenophon describes the ad-
vance
Of Artaxerxes to the fight;
At first the low gray cloud of dust,
And then a blackness o'er the fields
As of a passing thunder-gust,
Then flash of brazen armor bright,
And ranks of men, and spears up-
thrust, 50
Bowmen and troops with wicker
shields,
And cavalry equipped in white,
And chariots ranged in front of these
With scythes upon their axle-trees."

To this the Student answered: "Well,
I also have a tale to tell
Of Charlemagne; a tale that throws
A softer light, more tinged with
rose,
Than your grim apparition cast
Upon the darkness of the past. 60
Listen, and hear in English rhyme
What the good Monk of Lauresheim
Gives as the gossip of his time,
In mediæval Latin prose."

THE STUDENT'S TALE

EMMA AND EGINHARD

WHEN Alcuin taught the sons of
Charlemagne,
In the free schools of Aix, how kings
should reign,

And with them taught the children of
the poor
How subjects should be patient and
endure,
He touched the lips of some, as best
befit,
With honey from the hives of Holy
Writ;
Others intoxicated with the wine
Of ancient history, sweet but less di-
vine;
Some with the wholesome fruits of
grammar fed;
Others with mysteries of the stars o'er-
head, 10
That hang suspended in the vaulted
sky
Like lamps in some fair palace vast
and high.
In sooth, it was a pleasant sight to see
That Saxon monk, with hood and
rosary,
With inkhorn at his belt, and pen and
book,
And mingled love and reverence in
his look,
Or hear the cloister and the court re-
peat
The measured footfalls of his sandaled
feet,
Or watch him with the pupils of his
school,
Gentle of speech, but absolute of
rule. 20

Among them, always earliest in his
place,
Was Eginhard, a youth of Frankish
race,
Whose face was bright with flashes
that forerun
The splendors of a yet unrisen sun.
To him all things were possible, and
seemed
Not what he had accomplished, but
had dreamed,
And what were tasks to others were
his play,
The pastime of an idle holiday.

Smaragdo, Abbot of St. Michael's,
said,
With many a shrug and shaking of
the head, 30
Surely some demon must possess the
lad,

Who showed more wit than ever
 school-boy had,
 And learned his Trivium thus without
 the rod;
 But Alcuin said it was the grace of
 God.

Thus he grew up, in Logic point-de-
 vice,
 Perfect in Grammar, and in Rhetoric
 nice;
 Science of Numbers, Geometric art,
 And lore of Stars, and Music knew by
 heart;
 A Minnesinger, long before the times
 Of those who sang their love in Sua-
 bian rhymes. 40

The Emperor, when he heard this
 good report
 Of Eginhard much buzzed about the
 court,
 Said to himself, "This stripling seems
 to be
 Purposely sent into the world for
 me;
 He shall become my scribe, and shall
 be schooled
 In all the arts whereby the world is
 ruled."
 Thus did the gentle Eginhard at-
 tain
 To honor in the court of Charle-
 magne;
 Became the sovereign's favorite, his
 right hand,
 So that his fame was great in all the
 land, 50
 And all men loved him for his modest
 grace
 And comeliness of figure and of face.
 An inmate of the palace, yet recluse,
 A man of books, yet sacred from
 abuse
 Among the armed knights with spur
 on heel,
 The tramp of horses and the clang of
 steel;
 And as the Emperor promised he was
 schooled
 In all the arts by which the world is
 ruled.
 But the one art supreme, whose law
 is fate,
 The Emperor never dreamed of till
 too late. 60

Home from her convent to the palace
 came
 The lovely Princess Emma, whose
 sweet name,
 Whispered by seneschal or sung by
 bard,
 Had often touched the soul of Egin-
 hard.
 He saw her from his window, as in
 state
 She came, by knights attended through
 the gate;
 He saw her at the banquet of that
 day,
 Fresh as the morn, and beautiful as
 May;
 He saw her in the garden, as she
 strayed
 Among the flowers of summer with
 her maid, 70
 And said to him, "O Eginhard, dis-
 close
 The meaning and the mystery of the
 rose;"
 And trembling he made answer: "In
 good sooth,
 Its mystery is love, its meaning
 youth!"

How can I tell the signals and the
 signs
 By which one heart another heart di-
 vines?
 How can I tell the many thousand
 ways
 By which it keeps the secret it be-
 trays?
 O mystery of love! O strange ro-
 mance!
 Among the Peers and Paladins of
 France, 80
 Shining in steel, and prancing on gay
 steeds,
 Noble by birth, yet nobler by great
 deeds,
 The Princess Emma had no words nor
 looks
 But for this clerk, this man of thought
 and books.

The summer passed, the autumn
 came; the stalks
 Of lilies blackened in the garden
 walks;
 The leaves fell, russet-golden and
 blood-red.

Love-letters, thought the poet fancy-
 led,
 Or Jove descending in a shower of
 gold
 Into the lap of Danae of old; 90
 For poets cherish many a strange con-
 ceit,
 And love transmutes all nature by its
 heat.
 No more the garden lessons, nor the
 dark
 And hurried meetings in the twilight
 park;
 But now the studious lamp, and the
 delights
 Of firesides in the silent winter nights,
 And watching from his window hour
 by hour
 The light that burned in Princess
 Emma's tower.

At length one night, while musing by
 the fire,
 O'ercome at last by his insane de-
 sire, — 100
 For what will reckless love not do
 and dare?
 He crossed the court, and climbed the
 winding stair,
 With some feigned message in the
 Emperor's name;
 But when he to the lady's presence
 came
 He knelt down at her feet, until she
 laid
 Her hand upon him, like a naked
 blade,
 And whispered in his ear: "Arise,
 Sir Knight,
 To my heart's level, O my heart's de-
 light."

And there he lingered till the crow-
 ing cock,
 The Alectryon of the farmyard and
 the flock, 110
 Sang his aubade with lusty voice and
 clear,
 To tell the sleeping world that dawn
 was near.
 And then they parted; but at parting,
 lo!
 They saw the palace courtyard white
 with snow,
 And, placid as a nun, the moon on high

Gazing from cloudy cloisters of the
 sky.
 "Alas!" he said, "how hide the fatal
 line
 Of footprints leading from thy door
 to mine,
 And none returning!" Ah, he little
 knew
 What woman's wit, when put to
 proof, can do! 120

That night the Emperor, sleepless
 with the cares
 And troubles that attend on state
 affairs,
 Had risen before the dawn, and mus-
 ing gazed
 Into the silent night, as one amazed
 To see the calm that reigned o'er all
 supreme,
 When his own reign was but a trou-
 bled dream.
 The moon lit up the gables capped
 with snow,
 And the white roofs, and half the
 court below,
 And he beheld a form, that seemed to
 cower
 Beneath a burden, come from Emma's
 tower, — 130
 A woman, who upon her shoulders
 bore
 Clerk Eginhard to his own private
 door,
 And then returned in haste, but still
 essayed
 To tread the footprints she herself had
 made;
 And as she passed across the lighted
 space,
 The Emperor saw his daughter
 Emma's face!

He started not; he did not speak or
 moan,
 But seemed as one who hath been
 turned to stone;
 And stood there like a statue, nor
 awoke
 Out of his trance of pain, till morning
 broke, 140
 Till the stars faded, and the moon
 went down,
 And o'er the towers and steeples of
 the town

Came the gray daylight; then the
 sun, who took
 The empire of the world with sover-
 eign look,
 Suffusing with a soft and golden
 glow
 All the dead landscape in its shroud of
 snow,
 Touching with flame the tapering
 chapel spires,
 Windows and roofs, and smoke of
 household fires,
 And kindling park and palace as he
 came;
 The stork's nest on the chimney
 seemed in flame. 150
 And thus he stood till Eginhard ap-
 peared,
 Demure and modest with his comely
 beard
 And flowing flaxen tresses, come to
 ask,
 As was his wont, the day's appointed
 task.

The Emperor looked upon him with a
 smile,
 And gently said : " My son, wait yet
 awhile;
 This hour my council meets upon
 some great
 And very urgent business of the state.
 Come back within the hour. On thy
 return
 The work appointed for thee shalt
 thou learn." 160

Having dismissed this gallant Trouba-
 dour,
 He summoned straight his council, and
 secure
 And steadfast in his purpose, from the
 throne
 All the adventure of the night made
 known,
 Then asked for sentence; and with
 eager breath
 Some answered banishment, and others
 death.

. . . " come to ask,
 As was his wont, the day's appointed task."

Then spake the king : " Your sentence
is not mine ;

Life is the gift of God, and is divine ;
Nor from these palace walls shall one
depart

Who carries such a secret in his heart ;
My better judgment points another
way. ¹⁷¹

Good Alcuin, I remember how one day
When my Pepino asked you, ' What
are men ? '

You wrote upon his tablets with your
pen,

' Guests of the grave and travellers
that pass ! '

This being true of all men, we, alas !
Being all fashioned of the selfsame
dust,

Let us be merciful as well as just ;
This passing traveller who hath stolen
away

The brightest jewel of my crown to-
day, ¹⁸⁰

Shall of himself the precious gem re-
store ;

By giving it, I make it mine once
more.

Over those fatal footprints I will throw
My ermine mantle like another snow."

Then Eginhard was summoned to the
hall,

And entered, and in presence of them
all,

The Emperor said : " My son, for thou
to me

Hast been a son, and evermore shalt
be,

Long hast thou served thy sovereign,
and thy zeal ¹⁸⁹

Pleads to me with importunate appeal,
While I have been forgetful to requite

Thy service and affection as was right.
But now the hour is come, when I, thy
Lord,

Will crown thy love with such su-
preme reward,

A gift so precious kings have striven
in vain

To win it from the hands of Charle-
magne."

Then sprang the portals of the cham-
ber wide,

And Princess Emma entered, in the
pride

Of birth and beauty, that in part o'er-
came

The conscious terror and the blush of
shame. ²⁰⁰

And the good Emperor rose up from
his throne,

And taking her white hand within his
own

Placed it in Eginhard's, and said : " My
son,

This is the gift thy constant zeal hath
won ;

Thus I repay the royal debt I owe,
And cover up the footprints in the
snow."

INTERLUDE

THUS ran the Student's pleasant rhyme
Of Eginhard and love and youth ;
Some doubted its historic truth,
But while they doubted, ne'ertheless
Saw in it gleams of truthfulness,
And thanked the Monk of Lauresheim.

This they discussed in various mood ;
Then in the silence that ensued
Was heard a sharp and sudden sound
As of a bowstring snapped in air ; ¹⁰
And the Musician with a bound
Sprang up in terror from his chair,
And for a moment listening stood,
Then strode across the room, and found
His dear, his darling violin
Still lying safe asleep within
Its little cradle, like a child
That gives a sudden cry of pain,
And wakes to fall asleep again ;
And as he looked at it and smiled, ²⁰
By the uncertain light beguiled.
Despair ! two strings were broken in
twain.

While all lamented and made moan,
With many a sympathetic word
As if the loss had been their own,
Deeming the tones they might have
heard

Sweeter than they had heard before,
They saw the Landlord at the door,
The missing man, the portly Squire !
He had not entered, but he stood ³⁰
With both arms full of seasoned
wood,

To feed the much-devouring fire,

That like a lion in a cage
Lashed its long tail and roared with
rage.

The missing man! Ah, yes, they said,
Missing, but whither had he fled?
Where had he hidden himself away?
No farther than the barn or shed;
He had not hidden himself, nor fled;
How should he pass the rainy day 40
But in his barn with hens and hay,
Or mending harness, cart, or sled?
Now, having come, he needs must
stay
And tell his tale as well as they.

The Landlord answered only: "These
Are logs from the dead apple-trees
Of the old orchard planted here
By the first Howe of Sudbury.
Nor oak nor maple has so clear
A flame, or burns so quietly, 50
Or leaves an ash so clean and white;"
Thinking by this to put aside
The impending tale that terrified;
When suddenly, to his delight,
The Theologian interposed,
Saying that when the door was closed,
And they had stopped that draft of
cold,
Unpleasant night air, he proposed
To tell a tale world-wide apart
From that the Student had just told;
World-wide apart, and yet akin, 61
As showing that the human heart
Beats on forever as of old;
As well beneath the snow-white fold
Of Quaker kerchief, as within
Sendal or silk or cloth of gold,
And without preface would begin.

And then the clamorous clock struck
eight,
Deliberate, with sonorous chime
Slow measuring out the march of time,
Like some grave Consul of Old Rome
In Jupiter's temple driving home 72
The nails that marked the year and
date.

Thus interrupted in his rhyme,
The Theologian needs must wait;
But quoted Horace, where he sings
The dire Necessity of things,
That drives into the roofs sublime
Of new-built houses of the great
The adamantine nails of Fate. 80

When ceased the little carillon
To herald from its wooden tower
The important transit of the hour,
The Theologian hastened on,
Content to be allowed at last
To sing his Idyl of the Past.

THE THEOLOGIAN'S TALE

ELIZABETH

I

"AH, how short are the days! How
soon the night overtakes us!
In the old country the twilight is
longer; but here in the forest
Suddenly comes the dark, with hardly
a pause in its coming,
Hardly a moment between the two
lights, the day and the lamp-
light;
Yet how grand is the winter! How
spotless the snow is, and per-
fect!"

Thus spake Elizabeth Haddon at
nightfall to Hannah the house-
maid,
As in the farm-house kitchen, that
served for kitchen and parlor,
By the window she sat with her work,
and looked on the landscape
White as the great white sheet that
Peter saw in his vision,
By the four corners let down and de-
scending out of the heavens. 10
Covered with snow were the forests of
pine, and the fields and the mea-
dows,
Nothing was dark but the sky, and
the distant Delaware flowing
Down from its native hills, a peaceful
and bountiful river.

Then with a smile on her lips made
answer Hannah the housemaid:
"Beautiful winter! yea, the winter is
beautiful, surely,
If one could only walk like a fly with
one's feet on the ceiling.
But the great Delaware River is not
like the Thames, as we saw it
Out of our upper windows in Rother-
hithe Street in the Borough,

"A peaceful and bountiful river"

Crowded with masts and sails of ves-
 sels coming and going ;
 Here there is nothing but pines, with
 patches of snow on their
 branches.
 There is snow in the air, and see! it is
 falling already ;
 All the roads will be blocked, and I
 pity Joseph to-morrow,
 Breaking his way through the drifts,
 with his sled and oxen ; and
 then, too,
 How in all the world shall we get to
 Meeting on First-Day ? "

But Elizabeth checked her, and an-
 swered, mildly reproving :
 " Surely the Lord will provide ; for
 unto the snow He sayeth,
 Be thou on the earth, the good Lord
 sayeth ; He is it
 Giveth snow like wool, like ashes scat-
 ters the hoar-frost."
 So she folded her work and laid it
 away in her basket.

Meanwhile Hannah the housemaid
 had closed and fastened the
 shutters,
 Spread the cloth, and lighted the
 lamp on the table, and placed
 there

Plates and cups from the dresser, the
 brown rye loaf, and the butter
 Fresh from the dairy, and then, pro-
 tecting her hand with a holder,
 Took from the crane in the chimney the
 steaming and simmering kettle,
 Poised it aloft in the air, and filled up
 the earthen teapot,
 Made in Delft, and adorned with
 quaint and wonderful figures.

Then Elizabeth said, " Lo ! Joseph
 is long on his errand.
 I have sent him away with a hamper
 of food and of clothing
 For the poor in the village. A good
 lad and cheerful is Joseph ;
 In the right place is his heart, and his
 hand is ready and willing."

Thus in praise of her servant she
 spake, and Hannah the house-
 maid
 Laughed with her eyes, as she listened,
 but governed her tongue, and
 was silent,
 While her mistress went on : " The
 house is far from the village ;
 We should be lonely here, were it not
 for Friends that in passing
 Sometimes tarry o'ernight, and make
 us glad by their coming."

Thereupon answered Hannah the housemaid, the thrifty, the frugal:

"Yea, they come and they tarry, as if thy house were a tavern;
Open to all are its doors, and they come and go like the pigeons
In and out of the holes of the pigeon-house over the hayloft,
Cooing and smoothing their feathers and basking themselves in the sunshine." 50

But in meekness of spirit, and calmly, Elizabeth answered:
"All I have is the Lord's, not mine to give or withhold it;
I but distribute his gifts to the poor, and to those of his people
Who in journeyings often surrender their lives to his service.
His, not mine, are the gifts, and only so far can I make them
Mine, as in giving I add my heart to whatever is given.
Therefore my excellent father first built this house in the clearing;
Though he came not himself, I came; for the Lord was my guidance,
Leading me here for this service. We must not grudge, then, to others
Ever the cup of cold water, or crumbs that fall from our table." 60

Thus rebuked, for a season was silent the penitent housemaid;
And Elizabeth said in tones even sweeter and softer:
"Dost thou remember, Hannah, the great May-Meeting in London,
When I was still a child, how we sat in the silent assembly,
Waiting upon the Lord in patient and passive submission?
No one spake, till at length a young man, a stranger, John Estaugh,
Moved by the Spirit, rose, as if he were John the Apostle,
Speaking such words of power that they bowed our hearts, as a strong wind
Bends the grass of the fields, or grain that is ripe for the sickle.
Thoughts of him to-day have been oft borne inward upon me, 70

Wherefore I do not know; but strong is the feeling within me
That once more I shall see a face I have never forgotten."

II

E'en as she spake they heard the musical jangle of sleigh-bells,
First far off, with a dreamy sound and faint in the distance,
Then growing nearer and louder, and turning into the farmyard,
Till it stopped at the door, with sudden creaking of runners.
Then there were voices heard as of two men talking together,
And to herself, as she listened, upbraiding said Hannah the housemaid,
"It is Joseph come back, and I wonder what stranger is with him."

Down from its nail she took and lighted the great tin lantern so pierced with holes, and round, and roofed like the top of a lighthouse,
And went forth to receive the coming guest at the doorway,
Casting into the dark a network of glimmer and shadow
Over the falling snow, the yellow sleigh, and the horses,
And the forms of men, snow-covered, looming gigantic.
Then giving Joseph the lantern, she entered the house with the stranger.
Youthful he was and tall, and his cheeks aglow with the night air;
And as he entered, Elizabeth rose, and, going to meet him,
As if an unseen power had announced and preceded his presence,
And he had come as one whose coming had long been expected, 80
Quietly gave him her hand, and said,
"Thou art welcome, John Estaugh."
And the stranger replied, with staid and quiet behavior,
"Dost thou remember me still, Elizabeth? After so many
Years have passed, it seemeth a wonderful thing that I find thee.

Surely the hand of the Lord conducted
me here to thy threshold,
For as I journeyed along, and pondered
alone and in silence
On his ways, that are past finding out,
I saw in the snow-mist,
Seemingly weary with travel, a way-
farer, who by the wayside
Paused and waited. Forthwith I re-
membered Queen Candace's
eunuch,
How on the way that goes down from
Jerusalem unto Gaza,¹⁰⁰
Reading Esaias the Prophet, he jour-
neyed, and spake unto Philip,
Praying him to come up and sit in his
chariot with him.
So I greeted the man, and he mounted
the sledge beside me,
And as we talked on the way he told
me of thee and thy homestead,
How, being led by the light of the
Spirit, that never deceiveth,
Full of zeal for the work of the Lord,
thou hadst come to this country.
And I remembered thy name, and thy
father and mother in England,
And on my journey have stopped to
see thee, Elizabeth Haddon,
Wishing to strengthen thy hand in the
labors of love thou art doing."

And Elizabeth answered with confi-
dent voice, and serenely¹¹⁰
Looking into his face with her inno-
cent eyes as she answered,
"Surely the hand of the Lord is in it;
his Spirit hath led thee
Out of the darkness and storm to the
light and peace of my fireside."

Then, with stamping of feet the door
was opened, and Joseph
Entered, bearing the lantern, and,
carefully blowing the light out,
Hung it up on its nail, and all sat
down to their supper;
For underneath that roof was no dis-
tinction of persons,
But one family only, one heart, one
hearth, and one household.

When the supper was ended they
drew their chairs to the fire-
place,

Spacious, open-hearted, profuse of
flame and of firewood,¹²⁰
Lord of forests unfelled, and not a
gleaner of fagots,
Spreading its arms to embrace with
inexhaustible bounty
All who fled from the cold, exultant,
laughing at winter!
Only Hannah the housemaid was busy
in clearing the table,
Coming and going, and bustling about
in closet and chamber.

Then Elizabeth told her story again
to John Estaugh,
Going far back to the past, to the
early days of her childhood;
How she had waited and watched, in
all her doubts and besetments,
Comforted with the extendings and
holy, sweet inflowings
Of the spirit of love, till the voice im-
perative sounded,¹³⁰
And she obeyed the voice, and cast
in her lot with her people
Here in the desert land, and God
would provide for the issue.

Meanwhile Joseph sat with folded
hands, and demurely
Listened, or seemed to listen, and in
the silence that followed
Nothing was heard for a while but
the step of Hannah the house-
maid
Walking the floor overhead, and set-
ting the chambers in order.
And Elizabeth said, with a smile of
compassion, "The maiden
Hath a light heart in her breast, but
her feet are heavy and awk-
ward."
Inwardly Joseph laughed, but gov-
erned his tongue, and was si-
lent.

Then came the hour of sleep, death's
counterfeit, nightly rehearsal¹⁴⁰
Of the great Silent Assembly, the
Meeting of shadows, where no
man
Speaketh, but all are still, and the
peace and rest are unbroken!
Silently over that house the blessing
of slumber descended.

But when the morning dawned, and
 the sun uprose in his splendor,
 Breaking his way through clouds that
 encumbered his path in the
 heavens,
 Joseph was seen with his sled and
 oxen breaking a pathway
 Through the drifts of snow; the horses
 already were harnessed,

That had covered with leaves the
 Babes in the Wood, and blithely
 All the birds sang with him, and little
 cared for his boasting,
 Or for his Babes in the Wood, or the
 Cruel Uncle, and only
 Sang for the mates they had chosen,
 and cared for the nests they
 were building.

"Then Elizabeth told her story again to John Estaugh"

And John Estaugh was standing and
 taking leave at the threshold,
 Saying that he should return at the
 Meeting in May; while above
 them
 Hannah the housemaid, the homely,
 was looking out of the attic, 150
 Laughing aloud at Joseph, then sud-
 denly closing the casement,
 As the bird in a cuckoo-clock peeps
 out of its window,
 Then disappears again, and closes the
 shutter behind it.

III

Now was the winter gone, and the
 snow; and Robin the Redbreast
 Boasted on bush and tree it was he,
 it was he and no other

With them, but more sedately and
 meekly, Elizabeth Haddon 160
 Sang in her inmost heart, but her lips
 were silent and songless.
 Thus came the lovely spring with a
 rush of blossoms and music,
 Flooding the earth with flowers, and
 the air with melodies vernal.

Then it came to pass, one pleasant
 morning, that slowly
 Up the road there came a cavalcade,
 as of pilgrims,
 Men and women, wending their way
 to the Quarterly Meeting
 In the neighboring town; and with
 them came riding John Estaugh.
 At Elizabeth's door they stopped to
 rest, and alighting

Tasted the currant wine, and the
bread of rye, and the honey
Brought from the hives, that stood by
the sunny wall of the gar-
den;

Then remounted their horses, re-
freshed, and continued their
journey, ¹⁷¹

And Elizabeth with them, and Joseph,
and Hannah the housemaid.

But, as they started, Elizabeth lin-
gered a little, and leaning

Over her horse's neck, in a whisper
said to John Estaugh:

"Tarry awhile behind, for I have
something to tell thee,

Not to be spoken lightly, nor in the
presence of others;

Them it concerneth not, only thee and
me it concerneth."

And they rode slowly along through
the woods, conversing together.

It was a pleasure to breathe the fra-
grant air of the forest;

It was a pleasure to live on that bright
and happy May morning! ¹⁸⁰

Then Elizabeth said, though still
with a certain reluctance,

As if impelled to reveal a secret she
fain would have guarded:

"I will no longer conceal what is laid
upon me to tell thee;

I have received from the Lord a charge
to love thee, John Estaugh."

And John Estaugh made answer,
surprised at the words she had
spoken,

"Pleasant to me are thy converse,
thy ways, thy meekness of
spirit;

Pleasant thy frankness of speech, and
thy soul's immaculate white-
ness,

Love without dissimulation, a holy
and inward adorning.

But I have yet no light to lead me, no
voice to direct me.

When the Lord's work is done, and
the toil and the labor com-
pleted ¹⁹⁰

He hath appointed to me, I will gath-
er into the stillness

Of my own heart awhile, and listen
and wait for his guidance."

Then Elizabeth said, not troubled
nor wounded in spirit,

"So is it best, John Estaugh. We
will not speak of it further.

It hath been laid upon me to tell thee
this, for to-morrow

Thou art going away, across the sea,
and I know not

When I shall see thee more; but if the
Lord hath decreed it,

Thou wilt return again to seek me
here and to find me."

And they rode onward in silence, and
entered the town with the
others.

IV

Ships that pass in the night, and speak
each other in passing, ²⁰⁰

Only a signal shown and a distant
voice in the darkness;

So on the ocean of life, we pass and
speak one another,

Only a look and a voice, then darkness
again and a silence.

Now went on as of old the quiet
life of the homestead.

Patient and unrepining Elizabeth
labored, in all things

Mindful not of herself, but bearing
the burden of others,

Always thoughtful and kind and
untroubled; and Hannah the
housemaid

Diligent early and late, and rosy with
washing and scouring,

Still as of old disparaged the eminent
merits of Joseph,

And was at times reproved for her
light and frothy behavior, ²¹⁰

For her shy looks, and her careless
words, and her evil surmisings,

Being pressed down somewhat, like a
cart with sheaves overladen,

As she would sometimes say to Joseph,
quoting the Scriptures.

Meanwhile John Estaugh departed
across the sea, and departing

Carried hid in his heart a secret sacred
and precious,

Filling its chambers with fragrance,
and seeming to him in its sweet-
ness

Mary's ointment of spikenard, that
 filled all the house with its odor.
 O lost days of delight, that are wasted
 in doubting and waiting !
 O lost hours and days in which we
 might have been happy !
 But the light shone at last, and guided
 his wavering footsteps, 220
 And at last came the voice, impera-
 tive, questionless, certain.

Then John Estaugh came back o'er
 the sea for the gift that was
 offered,
 Better than houses and lands, the gift
 of a woman's affection.
 And on the First-Day that followed,
 he rose in the Silent Assembly,
 Holding in his strong hand a hand
 that trembled a little,
 Promising to be kind and true and
 faithful in all things.
 Such were the marriage rites of John
 and Elizabeth Estaugh.

And not otherwise Joseph, the hon-
 est, the diligent servant,
 Sped in his bashful wooing with
 homely Hannah the housemaid;
 For when he asked her the question,
 she answered, "Nay;" and
 then added: 230
 "But thee may make believe, and see
 what will come of it, Joseph."

INTERLUDE

"A PLEASANT and a winsome tale,"
 The Student said, "though somewhat
 pale
 And quiet in its coloring,
 As if it caught its tone and air
 From the gray suits that Quakers
 wear;
 Yet worthy of some German bard,
 Hebel, or Voss, or Eberhard,
 Who love of humble themes to sing,
 In humble verse; but no more true
 Than was the tale I told to you." 10

The Theologian made reply,
 And with some warmth, "That I
 deny;
 'T is no invention of my own,
 But something well and widely known

To readers of a riper age,
 Writ by the skilful hand that wrote
 The Indian tale of Hobomok,
 And Philothea's classic page.
 I found it like a waif afloat,
 Or dulse uprooted from its rock, 20
 On the swift tides that ebb and flow
 In daily papers, and at flood
 Bear freighted vessels to and fro,
 But later, when the ebb is low,
 Leave a long waste of sand and mud."

"It matters little," quoth the Jew;
 "The cloak of truth is lined with
 lies,
 Sayeth some proverb old and wise;
 And Love is master of all arts,
 And puts it into human hearts 30
 The strangest things to say and do."

And here the controversy closed
 Abruptly, ere 't was well begun;
 For the Sicilian interposed
 With, "Lordlings, listen, every one
 That listen may, unto a tale
 That's merrier than the nightingale;
 A tale that cannot boast, forsooth,
 A single rag or shred of truth;
 That does not leave the mind in
 doubt
 As to the with it or without; 40
 A naked falsehood and absurd
 As mortal ever told or heard.
 Therefore I tell it; or, maybe,
 Simply because it pleases me."

THE SICILIAN'S TALE

THE MONK OF CASAL-MAGGIORE

ONCE on a time, some centuries ago,
 In the hot sunshine two Franciscan
 friars
 Wended their weary way, with foot-
 steps slow,
 Back to their convent, whose white
 walls and spires
 Gleamed on the hillside like a patch of
 snow;
 Covered with dust they were, and
 torn by briars,
 And bore like sumpter-mules upon
 their backs
 The badge of poverty, their beggar's
 sacks.

The first was Brother Anthony, a
 spare
 And silent man, with pallid cheeks
 and thin,
 Much given to vigils, penance, fasting,
 prayer,
 Solemn and gray, and worn with
 discipline,
 As if his body but white ashes were,
 Heaped on the living coals that
 glowed within;
 A simple monk, like many of his day,
 Whose instinct was to listen and obey.

 A different man was Brother Timothy,
 Of larger mould and of a coarser
 paste;
 A rubicund and stalwart monk was he,
 Broad in the shoulders, broader in
 the waist,
 Who often filled the dull refectory

With noise by which the convent
 was disgraced,
 But to the mass book gave but little
 heed,
 By reason he had never learned to read.

 Now, as they passed the outskirts of
 a wood,
 They saw, with mingled pleasure
 and surprise,
 Fast tethered to a tree an ass, that stood
 Lazily winking his large, limpid
 eyes.
 The farmer Gilbert, of that neighbor-
 hood,
 His owner was, who, looking for
 supplies
 Of fagots, deeper in the wood had
 strayed,
 Leaving his beast to ponder in the
 shade.

As soon as Brother Timothy espied
The patient animal, he said : " Good-
lack !

Thus for our needs doth Providence
provide ;

We'll lay our wallets on the crea-
ture's back."

This being done, he leisurely untied
From head and neck the halter of
the jack,

And put it round his own, and to the
tree

Stood tethered fast as if the ass were
he. 40

And, bursting forth into a merry
laugh,

He cried to Brother Anthony :
" Away !

And drive the ass before you with
your staff ;

And when you reach the convent
you may say

You left me at a farm, half tired and
half

Ill with a fever, for a night and day,
And that the farmer lent this ass to
bear

Our wallets, that are heavy with good
fare."

Now Brother Anthony, who knew the
pranks

Of Brother Timothy, would not per-
suade 50

Or reason with him on his quirks and
cranks,

But, being obedient, silently
obeyed ;

And, smiting with his staff the ass's
flanks,

Drove him before him over hill and
glade,

Safe with his provend to the convent
gate,

Leaving poor Brother Timothy to his
fate.

Then Gilbert, laden with fagots for
his fire,

Forth issued from the wood, and
stood aghast

To see the ponderous body of the
friar

Standing where he had left his don-
key last. 60

Trembling he stood, and dared not
venture nigher,

But stared, and gaped, and crossed
himself full fast ;

For, being credulous and of little
wit,

He thought it was some demon from
the pit.

While speechless and bewildered thus
he gazed,

And dropped his load of fagots on
the ground,

Quoth Brother Timothy : " Be not
amazed

That where you left a donkey should
be found

A poor Franciscan friar, half-starved
and crazed,

Standing demure and with a halter
bound ; 70

But set me free, and hear the piteous
story

Of Brother Timothy of Casal-Mag-
giore.

" I am a sinful man, although you
see

I wear the consecrated cowl and
cape ;

You never owned an ass, but you
owned me,

Changed and transformed from my
own natural shape

All for the deadly sin of gluttony,
From which I could not otherwise

escape,

Than by this penance, dieting on
grass,

And being worked and beaten as an
ass. 80

" Think of the ignominy I endured ;
Think of the miserable life I led,

The toil and blows to which I was in-
ured,

My wretched lodging in a windy
shed,

My scanty fare so grudgingly pro-
cured,

The damp and musty straw that
formed my bed !

But, having done this penance for my
sins,

My life as man and monk again be-
gins."

The simple Gilbert, hearing words like these,

Was conscience-stricken, and fell
down apace

Before the friar upon his bended
knees,

And with a suppliant voice implored
his grace;

And the good monk, now very much
at ease,

Granted him pardon with a smiling
face,

Nor could refuse to be that night his
guest,

It being late, and he in need of rest.

Like Claudian's Old Man of Verona
here

Measure by fruits the slow-revolving
year.

And, coming to this cottage of content,
They found his children, and the

buxom wench

His wife, Dame Cicely, and his father,
bent

With years and labor, seated on a
bench,

Repeating over some obscure event

In the old wars of Milanese and
French;

110

"For all believed the story, and began
To see a saint in this afflicted man"

Upon a hillside, where the olive
thrives,

With figures painted on its white-
washed walls,

The cottage stood; and near the hum-
ming hives

Made murmurs as of far-off water-
falls;

A place where those who love se-
cluded lives

Might live content, and, free from
noise and brawls,

All welcomed the Franciscan, with
a sense

Of sacred awe and humble reverence.

When Gilbert told them what had
come to pass,

How beyond question, cavil, or sur-
mise,

Good Brother Timothy had been their
ass,

You should have seen the wonder
in their eyes;

You should have heard them cry
 "Alas! alas!"

Have heard their lamentations and
 their sighs!
 For all believed the story, and began
 To see a saint in this afflicted man. 120

Forthwith there was prepared a grand
 repast,

To satisfy the craving of the friar
 After so rigid and prolonged a fast;

The bustling housewife stirred the
 kitchen fire;
 Then her two barn-yard fowls, her
 best and last,

Were put to death, at her express
 desire,

And served up with a salad in a bowl,
 And flasks of country wine to crown
 the whole.

It would not be believed should I re-
 peat

How hungry Brother Timothy ap-
 peared; 130

It was a pleasure but to see him eat,
 His white teeth flashing through his
 russet beard,

His face aglow and flushed with wine
 and meat,

His roguish eyes that rolled and
 laughed and leered!

Lord! how he drank the blood-red
 country wine

As if the village vintage were divine!

And all the while he talked without
 surcease,

And told his merry tales with jovial
 glee

That never flagged, but rather did in-
 crease,

And laughed aloud as if insane
 were he, 140

And wagged his red beard, matted
 like a fleece,

And cast such glances at Dame Cicely
 That Gilbert now grew angry with
 his guest,

And thus in words his rising wrath
 expressed.

'Good father,' said he, "easily we
 see

How needful in some persons, and
 how right,

Mortification of the flesh may be.

The indulgence you have given it
 to-night,

After long penance, clearly proves to
 me

Your strength against temptation
 is but slight, 150

And shows the dreadful peril you are
 in

Of a relapse into your deadly sin.

"To-morrow morning, with the rising
 sun,

Go back unto your convent, nor re-
 frain

From fasting and from scourging, for
 you run

Great danger to become an ass
 again,

Since monkish flesh and asinine are
 one;

Therefore be wise, nor longer here
 remain,

Unless you wish the scourge should
 be applied

By other hands, that will not spare
 your hide." 160

When this the monk had heard, his
 color fled

And then returned, like lightning in
 the air,

Till he was all one blush from foot to
 head,

And even the bald spot in his russet
 hair

Turned from its usual pallor to bright
 red!

The old man was asleep upon his
 chair.

Then all retired, and sank into the
 deep

And helpless imbecility of sleep.

They slept until the dawn of day
 drew near,

Till the cock should have crowed,
 but did not crow, 170

For they had slain the shining chanti-
 cleer

And eaten him for supper, as you
 know.

The monk was up betimes and of
 good cheer,

And, having breakfasted, made
 haste to go,

As if he heard the distant matin bell,
And had but little time to say fare-
well.

Fresh was the morning as the breath
of kine;
Odors of herbs commingled with
the sweet

Balsamic exhalations of the pine;
A haze was in the air presaging
heat; 180

Uprose the sun above the Apennine,
And all the misty valleys at its feet
Were full of the delirious song of
birds,
Voices of men, and bells, and low of
herds.

All this to Brother Timothy was
naught;

He did not care for scenery, nor here
His busy fancy found the thing it
sought;

But when he saw the convent walls
appear,
And smoke from kitchen chimneys
upward caught

And whirled aloft into the atmos-
phere, 190
He quickened his slow footsteps, like
a beast

That scents the stable a league off at
least.

And as he entered through the con-
vent gate

He saw there in the court the ass,
who stood

Twirling his ears about, and seemed
to wait,

Just as he found him waiting in the
wood;

And told the Prior that, to alleviate
The daily labors of the brotherhood,
The owner, being a man of means and
thrift, 199

Bestowed him on the convent as a gift.

And thereupon the Prior for many
days

Revolved this serious matter in his
mind,

And turned it over many different
ways,

Hoping that some safe issue he
might find;

But stood in fear of what the world
would say,

If he accepted presents of this kind,
Employing beasts of burden for the
packs

That lazy monks should carry on their
backs.

Then, to avoid all scandal of the
sort,

And stop the mouth of cavil, he de-
creed 210

That he would cut the tedious matter
short,

And sell the ass with all convenient
speed,

Thus saving the expense of his sup-
port,

And hoarding something for a time
of need.

So he despatched him to the neighbor-
ing Fair,

And freed himself from cumber and
from care.

It happened now by chance, as some
might say,

Others perhaps would call it des-
tiny,

Gilbert was at the Fair; and heard a
bray,

And nearer came, and saw that it
was he, 220

And whispered in his ear, "Ah, lack-
aday!

Good father, the rebellious flesh, I
see,

Has changed you back into an ass
again,

And all my admonitions were in vain."

The ass, who felt this breathing in his
ear,

Did not turn round to look, but
shook his head,

As if he were not pleased these words
to hear,

And contradicted all that had been
said.

And this made Gilbert cry in voice
more clear,

"I know you well; your hair is
russet-red; 230

Do not deny it; for you are the same
Franciscan friar, and Timothy by
name."

The ass, though now the secret had
 come out,
 Was obstinate, and shook his head
 again;
 Until a crowd was gathered round
 about
 To hear this dialogue between the
 twain;
 And raised their voices in a noisy
 shout
 When Gilbert tried to make the
 matter plain,
 And flouted him and mocked him all
 day long
 With laughter and with jibes and
 scraps of song. 240

"If this be Brother Timothy," they
 cried,
 "Buy him, and feed him on the
 tenderest grass;
 Thou canst not do too much for one so
 tried
 As to be twice transformed into an
 ass."
 So simple Gilbert bought him, and
 untied
 His halter, and o'er mountain and
 morass
 He led him homeward, talking as he
 went
 Of good behavior and a mind con-
 tent.

The children saw them coming, and
 advanced,
 Shouting with joy, and hung about
 his neck, — 250
 Not Gilbert's, but the ass's, — round
 him danced,
 And wove green garlands where-
 withal to deck
 His sacred person; for again it chanced
 Their childish feelings, without rein
 or check,
 Could not discriminate in any way
 A donkey from a friar of Orders Gray.

"O Brother Timothy," the children
 said,
 "You have come back to us just as
 before;
 We were afraid, and thought that you
 were dead,
 And we should never see you any
 more," 260

And then they kissed the white star
 on his head,
 That like a birth-mark or a badge
 he wore,
 And patted him upon the neck and
 face,
 And said a thousand things with child-
 ish grace.

Thenceforward and forever he was
 known
 As Brother Timothy, and led alway
 A life of luxury, till he had grown
 Ungrateful, being stuffed with corn
 and hay,
 And very vicious. Then in angry tone,
 Rousing himself, poor Gilbert said
 one day, 270
 "When simple kindness is misunder-
 stood
 A little flagellation may do good."

His many vices need not here be told;
 Among them was a habit that he had
 Of flinging up his heels at young and
 old,
 Breaking his halter, running off like
 mad
 O'er pasture-lands and meadow, wood
 and wold,
 And other misdemeanors quite as
 bad;
 But worst of all was breaking from
 his shed
 At night, and ravaging the cabbage-
 bed. 280

So Brother Timothy went back once
 more
 To his old life of labor and distress;
 Was beaten worse than he had been
 before;
 And now, instead of comfort and
 caress,
 Came labors manifold and trials sore;
 And as his toils increased his food
 grew less,
 Until at last the great consoler, Death,
 Ended his many sufferings with his
 breath.

Great was the lamentation when he
 died; 289
 And mainly that he died impenitent;
 Dame Cicely bewailed, the children
 cried,

The old man still remembered the
event
In the French war, and Gilbert mag-
nified

His many virtues, as he came and
went,
And said: "Heaven pardon Brother
Timothy,
And keep us from the sin of gluttony."

INTERLUDE

"SIGNOR LUIGI," said the Jew,
When the Sicilian's tale was told,
"The were-wolf is a legend old,
But the were-ass is something new,

Remain within the realm of song.
The story that I told before,
Though not acceptable to all,
At least you did not find too long.
I beg you, let me try again,
With something in a different vein,
Before you bid the curtain fall. 19
Meanwhile keep watch upon the door,
Nor let the Landlord leave his chair,
Lest he should vanish into air,
And so elude our search once more."

Thus saying, from his lips he blew
A little cloud of perfumed breath,
And then, as if it were a clew
To lead his footsteps safely through,
Began his tale as followeth.

"And wove green garlands wherewithal to deck
His sacred person"

And yet for one I think it true.
The days of wonder have not ceased;
If there are beasts in forms of men,
As sure it happens now and then,
Why may not man become a beast,
In way of punishment at least? 10

"But this I will not now discuss;
I leave the theme, that we may thus

THE SPANISH JEW'S SECOND
TALE

SCANDERBEG

THE battle is fought and won
By King Ladislaus, the Hun,
In fire of hell and death's frost,
On the day of Pentecost.

And in rout before his path
From the field of battle red
Flee all that are not dead
Of the army of Amurath.

In the darkness of the night
Iskander, the pride and boast 10
Of that mighty Othman host,
With his routed Turks, takes flight
From the battle fought and lost
On the day of Pentecost ;
Leaving behind him dead
The army of Amurath,
The vanguard as it led,
The rearguard as it fled,
Mown down in the bloody swath
Of the battle's aftermath. 20

But he cared not for Hospodars,
Nor for Baron or Voivode,
As on through the night he rode
And gazed at the fateful stars,
That were shining overhead ;
But smote his steed with his staff,
And smiled to himself, and said :
" This is the time to laugh."

In the middle of the night,
In a halt of the hurrying flight, 30
There came a Scribe of the King
Wearing his signet ring,
And said in a voice severe :
" This is the first dark blot
On thy name, George Castriot!
Alas! why art thou here,
And the army of Amurath slain,
And left on the battle plain?"

And Iskander answered and said :
" They lie on the bloody sod 40
By the hoofs of horses trod ;
But this was the decree
Of the watchers overhead ;
For the war belongeth to God,
And in battle who are we,
Who are we, that shall withstand
The wind of his lifted hand?"

Then he bade them bind with chains
This man of books and brains ;
And the Scribe said: " What misdeed
Have I done, that, without need, 51
Thou doest to me this thing?"
And Iskander answering
Said unto him: " Not one
Misdeed to me hast thou done ;

But for fear that thou shouldst run
And hide thyself from me,
Have I done this unto thee.

" Now write me a writing, O Scribe,
And a blessing be on thy tribe! 60
A writing sealed with thy ring,
To King Amurath's Pasha
In the city of Croia,
The city moated and walled,
That he surrender the same
In the name of my master, the King ;
For what is writ in his name
Can never be recalled."

And the Scribe bowed low in dread,
And unto Iskander said : 70
" Allah is great and just,
But we are as ashes and dust ;
How shall I do this thing,
When I know that my guilty head
Will be forfeit to the King?"

Then swift as a shooting star
The curved and shining blade
Of Iskander's scimitar
From its sheath, with jewels bright,
Shot, as he thundered: " Write!" 80
And the trembling Scribe obeyed,
And wrote in the fitful glare
Of the bivouac fire apart,
With the chill of the midnight air
On his forehead white and bare,
And the chill of death in his heart.

Then again Iskander cried :
" Now follow whither I ride,
For here thou must not stay.
Thou shalt be as my dearest friend, 90
And honors without end
Shall surround thee on every side,
And attend thee night and day."
But the sullen Scribe replied :
" Our pathways here divide ;
Mine leadeth not thy way."

And even as he spoke
Fell a sudden scimitar stroke,
When no one else was near ;
And the Scribe sank to the ground, 100
As a stone, pushed from the brink
Of a black pool, might sink
With a sob and disappear ;
And no one saw the deed ;
And in the stillness around
No sound was heard but the sound

Of the hoofs of Iskander's steed,
As forward he sprang with a bound.

Then onward he rode and afar,
With scarce three hundred men, 110
Through river and forest and fen,
O'er the mountains of Argentar;
And his heart was merry within,
When he crossed the river Drin,
And saw in the gleam of the morn
The White Castle Ak-Hissar,
The city Croia called,
The city moated and walled,
The city where he was born, —
And above it the morning star. 120

Then his trumpeters in the van
On their silver bugles blew,
And in crowds about him ran
Albanian and Turkoman,
That the sound together drew.
And he feasted with his friends,
And when they were warm with
wine,
He said: "O friends of mine,
Behold what fortune sends,
And what the fates design! 130
King Amurath commands
That my father's wide domain,
This city and all its lands,
Shall be given to me again."

Then to the Castle White
He rode in regal state,
And entered in at the gate
In all his arms bedight,
And gave to the Pasha
Who ruled in Croia 140
The writing of the King,
Sealed with his signet ring.
And the Pasha bowed his head
And after a silence said:
"Allah is just and great!
I yield to the will divine,
The city and lands are thine;
Who shall contend with fate?"

Anon from the castle walls
The crescent banner falls, 50
And the crowd beholds instead,
Like a portent in the sky,
Iskander's banner fly,
The Black Eagle with double head;
And a shout ascends on high,
For men's souls are tired of the Turks,
And their wicked ways and works,

That have made of Ak-Hissar
A city of the plague;
And the loud, exultant cry 160
That echoes wide and far
Is: "Long live Scanderbeg!"

It was thus Iskander came
Once more unto his own;
And the tidings, like the flame
Of a conflagration blown
By the winds of summer, ran,
Till the land was in a blaze,
And the cities far and near,
Sayeth Ben Joshua Ben Meir, 170
In his Book of the Words of the Days,
"Were taken as a man
Would take the tip of his ear."

INTERLUDE

"Now that is after my own heart,"
The Poet cried; "one understands
Your swarthy hero Scanderbeg,
Gauntlet on hand and boot on leg,
And skilled in every warlike art,
Riding through his Albanian lands,
And following the auspicious star
That shone for him o'er Ak-Hissar."

The Theologian added here
His word of praise not less sincere, 10
Although he ended with a jibe;
"The hero of romance and song
Was born," he said, "to right the
wrong;
And I approve; but all the same
That bit of treason with the Scribe
Adds nothing to your hero's fame."

The Student praised the good old
times,
And liked the canter of the rhymes,
That had a hoofbeat in their sound;
But longed some further word to
hear 20
Of the old chronicler Ben Meir,
And where his volume might be
found.

The tall Musician walked the room
With folded arms and gleaming eyes,
As if he saw the Vikings rise,
Gigantic shadows in the gloom;
And much he talked of their emprise
And meteors seen in Northern skies,

And Heimdal's horn, and day of
doom.

But the Sicilian laughed again; 30
"This is the time to laugh," he said,
For the whole story he well knew
Was an invention of the Jew,
Spun from the cobwebs in his brain,
And of the same bright scarlet thread
As was the Tale of Kambalu.

Only the Landlord spake no word;
'T was doubtful whether he had heard
The tale at all, so full of care
Was he of his impending fate, 40
That, like the sword of Damocles,
Above his head hung blank and bare,
Suspended by a single hair,
So that he could not sit at ease,
But sighed and looked disconsolate,
And shifted restless in his chair,
Revolving how he might evade
The blow of the descending blade.

The Student came to his relief
By saying in his easy way 50
To the Musician: "Calm your grief,
My fair Apollo of the North,
Balder the Beautiful and so forth;
Although your magic lyre or lute
With broken strings is lying mute,
Still you can tell some doleful tale
Of shipwreck in a midnight gale,
Or something of the kind to suit
The mood that we are in to-night
For what is marvellous and strange; 60
So give your nimble fancy range,
And we will follow in its flight."

But the Musician shook his head;
"No tale I tell to-night," he said,
"While my poor instrument lies
there,
Even as a child with vacant stare
Lies in its little coffin dead."

Yet, being urged, he said at last:
"There comes to me out of the Past
A voice, whose tones are sweet and
wild, 70
Singing a song almost divine,
And with a tear in every line;
An ancient ballad, that my nurse
Sang to me when I was a child,
In accents tender as the verse;
And sometimes wept, and sometimes
smiled

While singing it, to see arise
The look of wonder in my eyes,
And feel my heart with terror beat.
This simple ballad I retain 80
Clearly imprinted on my brain,
And as a tale will now repeat."

THE MUSICIAN'S TALE

THE MOTHER'S GHOST

SVEND DYRING he rideth adown the
glade;
I myself was young!
There he hath wooed him so winsome
a maid;
*Fair words gladden so many a
heart.*

Together were they for seven years,
And together children six were theirs.

Then came Death abroad through the
land,
And blighted the beautiful lily-wand.

Svend Dyring he rideth adown the
glade,
And again hath he wooed him another
maid. 10

He hath wooed him a maid and
brought home a bride,
But she was bitter and full of pride.

When she came driving into the
yard,
There stood the six children weeping
so hard.

There stood the small children with
sorrowful heart;
From before her feet she thrust them
apart.

She gave to them neither ale nor
bread;
"Ye shall suffer hunger and hate,"
she said.

She took from them their quilts of
blue,
And said: "Ye shall lie on the straw
we strew." 20

She took from them the great wax-
light:

"Now ye shall lie in the dark at
night."

In the evening late they cried with
cold;

The mother heard it under the mould.

The woman heard it the earth below:
"To my little children I must go."

She standeth before the Lord of all:
"And may I go to my children
small?"

She prayed him so long, and would
not cease,
Until he bade her depart in peace. 30

"At cock-crow thou shalt return
again;
Longer thou shalt not there remain!"

She girded up her sorrowful bones,
And rifted the walls and the marble
stones.

As through the village she flitted by,
The watch-dogs howled aloud to the
sky.

When she came to the castle gate,
There stood her eldest daughter in
wait.

"Why standest thou here, dear
daughter mine?
How fares it with brothers and sisters
thine?" 40

"Never art thou mother of mine,
For my mother was both fair and fine.

"My mother was white, with cheeks
of red,
But thou art pale, and like to the dead."

"One she braided, another she brushed,
The third she lifted, the fourth she hushed."

"How should I be fair and fine?
I have been dead; pale cheeks are
mine.

"How should I be white and red,
So long, so long have I been dead?"

When she came in at the chamber
door,
There stood the small children weep-
ing sore. 50

One she braided, another she brushed,
The third she lifted, the fourth she
hushed.

The fifth she took on her lap and
pressed,
As if she would suckle it at her
breast.

Then to her eldest daughter said she,
"Do thou bid Svend Dyring come
hither to me."

Into the chamber when he came
She spake to him in anger and shame.

"I left behind me both ale and bread;
My children hunger and are not fed. 60

"I left behind me quilts of blue;
My children lie on the straw ye strew.

"I left behind me the great waxlight;
My children lie in the dark at night.

"If I come again unto your hall,
As cruel a fate shall you befall!

"Now crows the cock with feathers
red;
Back to the earth must all the dead.

"Now crows the cock with feathers
swart;
The gates of heaven fly wide apart. 70

"Now crows the cock with feathers
white;
I can abide no longer to-night."

Whenever they heard the watch-dogs
wail,
They gave the children bread and
ale.

Whenever they heard the watch-dogs
bay,
They feared lest the dead were on their
way.

Whenever they heard the watch-dogs
bark,
I myself was young!
They feared the dead out there in the
dark.
Fair words gladden so many a
heart. 80

INTERLUDE

TOUCHED by the pathos of these
rhymes,
The Theologian said: "All praise
Be to the ballads of old times
And to the bards of simple ways,
Who walked with Nature hand in
hand,
Whose country was their Holy Land,
Whose singing robes were homespun
brown
From looms of their own native town,
Which they were not ashamed to
wear,
And not of silk or sendal gay, 10
Nor decked with fanciful array
Of cockle-shells from Outre-Mer."

To whom the Student answered:
"Yes;

All praise and honor! I confess
That bread and ale, home-baked,
home-brewed,
Are wholesome and nutritious food,
But not enough for all our needs;
Poets — the best of them — are birds
Of passage; where their instinct leads
They range abroad for thoughts and
words, 20
And from all climes bring home the
seeds

That germinate in flowers or weeds.
They are not fowls in barnyards born
To cackle o'er a grain of corn;
And, if you shut the horizon down
To the small limits of their town,
What do you do but degrade your
bard

Till he at last becomes as one
Who thinks the all-encircling sun
Rises and sets in his back yard?" 30

The Theologian said again :
 "It may be so; yet I maintain
 That what is native still is best,
 And little care I for the rest.
 'T is a long story; time would fail
 To tell it, and the hour is late;
 We will not waste it in debate,
 But listen to our Landlord's tale."

And thus the sword of Damocles
 Descending not by slow degrees, 40
 But suddenly, on the Landlord fell,
 Who blushing, and with much demur
 And many vain apologies,
 Plucking up heart, began to tell
 The Rhyme of one Sir Christopher.

THE LANDLORD'S TALE

THE RHYME OF SIR CHRISTOPHER

It was Sir Christopher Gardiner,
 Knight of the Holy Sepulchre,
 From Merry England over the sea,
 Who stepped upon this continent
 As if his august presence lent
 A glory to the colony.

You should have seen him in the street
 Of the little Boston of Winthrop's time,
 His rapier dangling at his feet,
 Doublet and hose and boots complete,
 Prince Rupert hat with ostrich plume,
 Gloves that exhaled a faint perfume,
 Luxuriant curls and air sublime,
 And superior manners now obsolete!

He had a way of saying things
 That made one think of courts and
 kings,
 And lords and ladies of high degree;
 So that not having been at court
 Seemed something very little short
 Of treason or lese-majesty, 20
 Such an accomplished knight was he.

His dwelling was just beyond the
 town,
 At what he called his country-seat;
 For, careless of Fortune's smile or
 frown,
 And weary grown of the world and
 its ways,
 He wished to pass the rest of his days
 In a private life and a calm retreat.

But a double life was the life he led,
 And, while professing to be in search
 Of a godly course, and willing, he
 said, 30
 Nay, anxious to join the Puritan
 church,
 He made of all this but small ac-
 count,
 And passed his idle hours instead
 With roystering Morton of Merry
 Mount,
 That pettifogger from Furnival's Inn,
 Lord of misrule and riot and sin,
 Who looked on the wine when it was
 red.

This country-seat was little more
 Than a cabin of logs; but in front of
 the door
 A modest flower-bed thickly sown 40
 With sweet alyssum and columbine
 Made those who saw it at once divine
 The touch of some other hand than his
 own.
 And first it was whispered, and then it
 was known,
 That he in secret was harboring there
 A little lady with golden hair,
 Whom he called his cousin, but whom
 he had wed
 In the Italian manner, as men said,
 And great was the scandal every-
 where.

But worse than this was the vague
 surmise, 50
 Though none could vouch for it or
 aver,
 That the Knight of the Holy Sepul-
 chre
 Was only a Papist in disguise;
 And the more to imbitter their bitter
 lives,
 And the more to trouble the public
 mind,
 Came letters from England, from two
 other wives,
 Whom he had carelessly left behind;
 Both of them letters of such a kind
 As made the governor hold his breath;
 The one imploring him straight to
 send 60
 The husband home, that he might
 amend;
 The other asking his instant death,
 As the only way to make an end.

"Gathering in the bright sunshine
The sweet alyssum and columbine"

The wary governor deemed it right,
When all this wickedness was revealed,
To send his warrant signed and sealed,
And take the body of the knight.
Armed with this mighty instrument,
The marshal, mounting his gallant
steed,
Rode forth from town at the top of his
speed,
And followed by all his bailiffs bold,
As if on high achievement bent,
To storm some castle or stronghold,
Challenge the warders on the wall,
And seize in his ancestral hall
A robber-baron grim and old.

But when through all the dust and heat
He came to Sir Christopher's country-
seat,

No knight he found, nor warder there,
But the little lady with golden hair, so
Who was gathering in the bright sun-
shine

The sweet alyssum and columbine;
While gallant Sir Christopher, all so
gay,

Being forewarned, through the pos-
tern gate

Of his castle wall had tripped away,
And was keeping a little holiday
In the forests, that bounded his estate.

Then as a trusty squire and true
The marshal searched the castle
through,

Not crediting what the lady said; 90
Searched from cellar to garret in vain,
And, finding no knight, came out again

And arrested the golden damsel in-
 stead,
 And bore her in triumph into the
 town,
 While from her eyes the tears rolled
 down
 On the sweet alyssum and colum-
 bine,
 That she held in her fingers white and
 fine.

The governor's heart was moved to
 see
 So fair a creature caught within
 The snares of Satan and of sin, 100
 And he read her a little homily
 On the folly and wickedness of the
 lives

Of women half cousins and half wives;
 But, seeing that naught his words
 availed,
 He sent her away in a ship that
 sailed
 For Merry England over the sea,
 To the other two wives in the old
 countree,
 To search her further, since he had
 failed
 To come at the heart of the mystery

Meanwhile Sir Christopher wandered
 away 110
 Through pathless woods for a month
 and a day,
 Shooting pigeons, and sleeping at
 night

With the noble savage, who took de-
light
In his feathered hat and his velvet
vest,
His gun and his rapier and the rest.
But as soon as the noble savage
heard
That a bounty was offered for this gay
bird,
He wanted to slay him out of hand,
And bring in his beautiful scalp for a
show,
Like the glossy head of a kite or ¹¹⁹
crow,
Until he was made to understand
They wanted the bird alive, not
dead;
Then he followed him whithersoever
he fled,
Through forest and field, and hunted
him down,
And brought him prisoner into the
town.

Alas! it was a rueful sight,
To see this melancholy knight
In such a dismal and hapless case;
His hat deformed by stain and dent,
His plumage broken, his doublet
rent,
His beard and flowing locks forlorn,
Matted, dishevelled, and unshorn, ¹³²
His boots with dust and mire be-
sprent;
But dignified in his disgrace,
And wearing an unblushing face.
And thus before the magistrate
He stood to hear the doom of fate.
In vain he strove with wonted ease
To modify and extenuate
His evil deeds in church and state, ¹⁴⁰
For gone was now his power to please;
And his pompous words had no more
weight
Than feathers flying in the breeze.

With suavity equal to his own
The governor lent a patient ear
To the speech evasive and high-flown,
In which he endeavored to make clear
That colonial laws were too severe
When applied to a gallant cavalier,
A gentleman born, and so well
known, ¹⁵⁰
And accustomed to move in a higher
sphere.

All this the Puritan governor heard,
And deigned in answer never a word;
But in summary manner shipped
away,
In a vessel that sailed from Salem Bay,
This splendid and famous cavalier,
With his Rupert hat and his popery,
To Merry England over the sea,
As being unmeet to inhabit here.

Thus endeth the Rhyme of Sir Chris-
topher, ¹⁶⁰
Knight of the Holy Sepulchre,
The first who furnished this barren
land
With apples of Sodom and ropes of
sand.

FINALE

THESE are the tales those merry
guests
Told to each other, well or ill;
Like summer birds that lift their crests
Above the borders of their nests
And twitter, and again are still.

These are the tales, or new or old.
In idle moments idly told;
Flowers of the field with petals
thin,
Lilies that neither toil nor spin,
And tufts of wayside weeds and
gorse ¹⁸
Hung in the parlor of the inn
Beneath the sign of the Red Horse.

And still, reluctant to retire,
The friends sat talking by the fire
And watched the smouldering embers
burn
To ashes, and flash up again
Into a momentary glow,
Lingering like them when forced to
go,
And going when they would re-
main;
For on the morrow they must turn
Their faces homeward, and the pain
Of parting touched with its unrest
A tender nerve in every breast.

But sleep at last the victory won;
They must be stirring with the sun,
And drowsily good night they said,

And went still gossiping to bed,
And left the parlor wrapped in gloom.
The only live thing in the room
Was the old clock, that in its pace 30
Kept time with the revolving spheres
And constellations in their flight
And struck with its uplifted mace
The dark, unconscious hours of night,
To senseless and unlistening ears.

Uprose the sun; and every guest,
Uprisen, was soon equipped and
dressed
For journeying home and city-ward;
The old stage-coach was at the door,
With horses harnessed, long before 40
The sunshine reached the withered
sward
Beneath the oaks, whose branches
hoar
Murmured: "Farewell forevermore."
"Farewell!" the portly Landlord
cried;
"Farewell!" the parting guests re-
plied,

But little thought that nevermore
Their feet would pass that threshold
o'er;
That nevermore together there
Would they assemble, free from care,
To hear the oaks' mysterious roar, 50
And breathe the wholesome country
air.

Where are they now? What lands
and skies
Paint pictures in their friendly eyes?
What hope deludes, what promise
cheers,
What pleasant voices fill their ears?
Two are beyond the salt sea waves,
And three already in their graves.
Perchance the living still may look
Into the pages of this book,
And see the days of long ago 60
Floating and fleeting to and fro,
As in the well-remembered brook
They saw the inverted landscape
gleam,
And their own faces like a dream
Look up upon them from below.

"Over the shining sands the wandering cattle homeward
Follow each other at your call, O Bells of Lynn!" (See p. 373.)

FLOWER-DE-LUCE

FLOWER-DE-LUCE

BEAUTIFUL lily, dwelling by still
rivers,
Or solitary mere,
Or where the sluggish meadow-brook
delivers
Its waters to the weir!

Thou laughest at the mill, the whir
and worry
Of spindle and of loom,
And the great wheel that toils amid
the hurry
And rushing of the flume.

Born in the purple, born to joy and
pleasance,
Thou dost not toil nor spin,
But makest glad and radiant with thy
presence
The meadow and the lin.

The wind blows, and uplifts thy
drooping banner,
And round thee throng and run

The rushes, the green yeomen of thy
manor,
The outlaws of the sun.

The burnished dragon-fly is thy at-
tendant,
And tilts against the field,
And down the listed sunbeam rides
resplendent
With steel-blue mail and shield.

Thou art the Iris, fair among the fair-
est,
Who, armed with golden rod
And winged with the celestial azure,
bearest
The message of some God.

Thou art the Muse, who far from
crowded cities
Hauntest the sylvan streams,
Playing on pipes of reed the artless
ditties
That come to us as dreams.

O flower-de-luce, bloom on, and let
the river
Linger to kiss thy feet!
O flower of song, bloom on, and make
forever
The world more fair and sweet.

PALINGENESIS

I LAY upon the headland-height, and
listened
To the incessant sobbing of the sea
In caverns under me,
And watched the waves, that tossed
and fled and glistened,
Until the rolling meadows of amethyst
Melted away in mist.

Then suddenly, as one from sleep, I
started;
For round about me all the sunny
capes
Seemed peopled with the shapes
Of those whom I had known in days
departed,
Apparelled in the loveliness which
gleams
On faces seen in dreams.

A moment only, and the light and
glory
Faded away, and the disconsolate
shore
Stood lonely as before;
And the wild-roses of the promontory
Around me shuddered in the wind,
and shed
Their petals of pale red.

There was an old belief that in the
embers
Of all things their primordial form
exists,
And cunning alchemists
Could re-create the rose with all its
members
From its own ashes, but without the
bloom,
Without the lost perfume.

Ah me! what wonder-working, occult
science
Can from the ashes in our hearts once
more
The rose of youth restore?

What craft of alchemy can bid defi-
ance
To time and change, and for a single
hour
Renew this phantom-flower? 30

"Oh, give me back," I cried, "the
vanished splendors,
The breath of morn, and the exultant
strife,
When the swift stream of life
Bounds o'er its rocky channel, and
surrenders
The pond, with all its lilies, for the leap
Into the unknown deep!"

And the sea answered, with a lamen-
tation,
Like some old prophet wailing, and it
said,
"Alas! thy youth is dead!
It breathes no more, its heart has no
pulsation;
In the dark places with the dead of old
It lies forever cold!" 40

Then said I, "From its consecrated
cerements
I will not drag this sacred dust again,
Only to give me pain;
But, still remembering all the lost en-
dearments,
Go on my way, like one who looks be-
fore,
And turns to weep no more."

Into what land of harvests, what plan-
tations
Bright with autumnal foliage and the
glow
Of sunsets burning low;
Beneath what midnight skies, whose
constellations
Light up the spacious avenues between
This world and the unseen! 50

Amid what friendly greetings and
caresses,
What households, though not alien,
yet not mine,
What bowers of rest divine;
To what temptations in lone wilder-
nesses,
What famine of the heart, what pain
and loss,
The bearing of what cross! 60

I do not know ; nor will I vainly ques-
tion
Those pages of the mystic book which
hold
The story still untold,
But without rash conjecture or sug-
gestion
Turn its last leaves in reverence and
good heed,
Until "The End" I read.

THE BRIDGE OF CLOUD

BURN, O evening hearth, and waken
Pleasant visions, as of old !
Though the house by winds be shaken,
Safe I keep this room of gold !

Ah, no longer wizard Fancy
Builds her castles in the air,
Luring me by necromancy
Up the never-ending stair !

But, instead, she builds me bridges
Over many a dark ravine,
Where beneath the gusty ridges
Cataracts dash and roar unseen.

And I cross them, little heeding
Blast of wind or torrent's roar,
As I follow the receding
Footsteps that have gone before.

Naught avails the imploring gesture,
Naught avails the cry of pain !
When I touch the flying vesture,
'T is the gray robe of the rain.

Baffled I return, and, leaning
O'er the parapets of cloud,
Watch the mist that intervening
Wraps the valley in its shroud.

And the sounds of life ascending
Faintly, vaguely, meet the ear,
Murmur of bells and voices blending
With the rush of waters near.

Well I know what there lies hidden,
Every tower and town and farm,
And again the land forbidden
Reassumes its vanished charm.

Well I know the secret places,
And the nests in hedge and tree ;

At what doors are friendly faces,
In what hearts are thoughts of me
Through the mist and darkness sink
ing,
Blown by wind and beaten by
shower,
Down I fling the thought I'm thinking,
Down I toss this Alpine flower.

HAWTHORNE

MAY 23, 1864

How beautiful it was, that one bright
day
In the long week of rain !
Though all its splendor could not chase
away
The omnipresent pain.

The lovely town was white with
apple-blooms,
And the great elms o'erhead
Dark shadows wove on their aerial
looms
Shot through with golden thread.

Across the meadows, by the gray old
manse,
The historic river flowed :
I was as one who wanders in a trance,
Unconscious of his road.

The faces of familiar friends seemed
strange ;
Their voices I could hear,
And yet the words they uttered seemed
to change
Their meaning to my ear.

For the one face I looked for was not
there,
The one low voice was mute ;
Only an unseen presence filled the air,
And baffled my pursuit.

Now I look back, and meadow, manse,
and stream
Dimly my thought defines ;
I only see — a dream within a dream —
The hill-top hearsed with pines.

I only hear above his place of rest
Their tender undertone,

The infinite longings of a troubled
breast,
The voice so like his own.

There in seclusion and remote from
men
The wizard hand lies cold,
Which at its topmost speed let fall the
pen,
And left the tale half told.

Ah! who shall lift that wand of magic
power,
And the lost clew regain?
The unfinished window in Aladdin's
tower
Unfinished must remain!

And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had
come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to
day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

— Across the meadows, by the gray old manse —

CHRISTMAS BELLS

I HEARD the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to
men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and
deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to
men!"

THE WIND OVER THE CHIM- NEY

SEE, the fire is sinking low,
Dusky red the embers glow,
While above them still I cower,
While a moment more I linger,
Though the clock, with lifted finger,
Points beyond the midnight hour.

Sings the blackened log a tune
Learned in some forgotten June
From a school-boy at his play, 9
When they both were young together,
Heart of youth and summer weather
Making all their holiday.

And the night-wind rising, hark!
How above there in the dark,
In the midnight and the snow,
Ever wilder, fiercer, grander,
Like the trumpets of Iskander,
All the noisy chimneys blow!

Every quivering tongue of flame
Seems to murmur some great name, 20
Seems to say to me, "Aspire!"
But the night-wind answers, "Hollow
Are the visions that you follow,
Into darkness sinks your fire!"

Then the flicker of the blaze
Gleams on volumes of old days,
Written by masters of the art,

Loud through whose majestic pages
Rolls the melody of ages,
Throb the harp-strings of the
heart. 30

And again the tongues of flame
Start exulting and exclaim;
"These are prophets, bards, and
seers;
In the horoscope of nations,
Like ascendant constellations,
They control the coming years."

But the night-wind cries: "Despair!
Those who walk with feet of air
Leave no long-enduring marks;
At God's forges incandescent 40
Mighty hammers beat incessant,
These are but the flying sparks.

"Dust are all the hands that wrought;
Books are sepulchres of thought;
The dead laurels of the dead
Rustle for a moment only,
Like the withered leaves in lonely
Churchyards at some passing tread."

Suddenly the flame sinks down;
Sink the rumors of renown; 50
And alone the night-wind drear
Clamors louder, wilder, vaguer, —
" 'Tis the brand of Meleager
Dying on the hearth-stone here!"

And I answer, — "Though it be,
Why should that discomfort me?
No endeavor is in vain;
Its reward is in the doing,
And the rapture of pursuing
Is the prize the vanquished gain." 60

THE BELLS OF LYNN

HEARD AT NAHANT

O CURFEW of the setting sun! O
Bells of Lynn!
O requiem of the dying day! O Bells
of Lynn!

From the dark belfries of yon cloud-
cathedral wafted,
Your sounds aerial seem to float, O
Bells of Lynn!

Borne on the evening wind across the
crimson twilight,
O'er land and sea they rise and fall, O
Bells of Lynn!

The fisherman in his boat, far out be-
yond the headland,
Listens, and leisurely rows ashore, O
Bells of Lynn!

KILLED AT THE FORD

He is dead, the beautiful youth,
The heart of honor, the tongue of
truth,
He, the life and light of us all,
Whose voice was blithe as a bugle-call,
Whom all eyes followed with one con-
sent,

"The distant lighthouse hears, and with his flaming signal
Answers you"

Over the shining sands the wandering
cattle homeward
Follow each other at your call, O
Bells of Lynn!

The distant lighthouse hears, and with
his flaming signal
Answers you, passing the watchword
on, O Bells of Lynn!

And down the darkening coast run
the tumultuous surges,
And clap their hands, and shout to
you, O Bells of Lynn!

Till from the shuddering sea, with
your wild incantations,
Ye summon up the spectral moon, O
Bells of Lynn!

And startled at the sight, like the
weird woman of Endor,
Ye cry aloud, and then are still, O
Bells of Lynn!

The cheer of whose laugh, and whose
pleasant word,
Hushed all murmurs of discontent.

Only last night, as we rode along.
Down the dark of the mountain gap,
To visit the picket-guard at the ford,
Little dreaming of any mishap,
He was humming the words of some
old song:

"Two red roses he had on his cap
And another he bore at the point of
his sword."

Sudden and swift a whistling ball
Came out of a wood, and the voice
was still;
Something I heard in the darkness
fall,

And for a moment my blood grew
chill;
I spake in a whisper, as he who
speaks

In a room where some one is lying
dead;
But he made no answer to what I
said.

We lifted him up to his saddle again,
And through the mire and the mist
and the rain
Carried him back to the silent camp,
And laid him as if asleep on his bed;
And I saw by the light of the sur-
geon's lamp
Two white roses upon his cheeks,
And one, just over his heart, blood-red!

And I saw in a vision how far and
fleet
That fatal bullet went speeding forth,
Till it reached a town in the distant
North,
Till it reached a house in a sunny
street,
Till it reached a heart that ceased to
beat
Without a murmur, without a cry;
And a bell was tolled, in that far-off
town,
For one who had passed from cross to
crown,
And the neighbors wondered that she
should die.

GIOTTO'S TOWER

How many lives, made beautiful and
sweet
By self-devotion and by self-re-
straint,
Whose pleasure is to run without
complaint
On unknown errands of the Para-
clete,
Wanting the reverence of unshodden
feet,
Fail of the nimbus which the artists
paint
Around the shining forehead of the
saint,
And are in their completeness in-
complete!
In the old Tuscan town stands Giotto's
tower,
The lily of Florence blossoming in
stone, —
A vision, a delight, and a desire, —

The builder's perfect and centennial
flower,
That in the night of ages bloomed
alone,
But wanting still the glory of the
spire.

TO-MORROW

'T is late at night, and in the realm of
sleep
My little lambs are folded like the
flocks;
From room to room I hear the wake-
ful clocks
Challenge the passing hour, like
guards that keep
Their solitary watch on tower and
steep;
Far off I hear the crowing of the
cocks,
And through the opening door that
time unlocks
Feel the fresh breathing of To-mor-
row creep.
To-morrow! the mysterious, unknown
guest,
Who cries to me: "Remember Bar-
mecide,
And tremble to be happy with the
rest."
And I make answer: "I am satis-
fied;
I dare not ask; I know not what is
best;
God hath already said what shall
betide."

DIVINA COMMEDIA

I

OfT have I seen at some cathedral door
A laborer, pausing in the dust and
heat,
Lay down his burden, and with
reverent feet
Enter, and cross himself, and on the
floor
Kneel to repeat his paternoster o'er;
Far off the noises of the world re-
treat;
The loud vociferations of the street
Become an undistinguishable roar.

So, as I enter here from day to day,
 And leave my burden at this minster
 gate,
 Kneeling in prayer, and not ashamed
 to pray,
 The tumult of the time disconsolate
 To inarticulate murmurs dies away,
 While the eternal ages watch and
 wait.

II

How strange the sculptures that adorn
 these towers!
 This crowd of statues, in whose
 folded sleeves
 Birds build their nests; while cano-
 pied with leaves
 Parvis and portal bloom like trel-
 lised bowers,
 And the vast minster seems a cross of
 flowers!
 But fiends and dragons on the gar-
 goyled eaves
 Watch the dead Christ between the
 living thieves,
 And, underneath, the traitor Judas
 lowers!

Ah! from what agonies of heart and
 brain,
 What exultations trampling on de-
 spair,
 What tenderness, what tears, what
 hate of wrong,
 What passionate outcry of a soul in
 pain,
 Uprose this poem of the earth and
 air,
 This mediæval miracle of song!

III

I enter, and I see thee in the gloom
 Of the long aisles, O poet satur-
 nine!
 And strive to make my steps keep
 pace with thine.
 The air is filled with some unknown
 perfume;
 The congregation of the dead make
 room
 For thee to pass; the votive tapers
 shine;
 Like rooks that haunt Ravenna's
 groves of pine

The hovering echoes fly from tomb
to tomb.
From the confessionals I hear arise
Rehearsals of forgotten tragedies,
And lamentations from the crypts
below ;
And then a voice celestial that begins
With the pathetic words, "Al-
though your sins
As scarlet be," and ends with "as
the snow."

IV

With snow-white veil and garments
as of flame,
She stands before thee, who so long
ago
Filled thy young heart with passion
and the woe
From which thy song and all its
splendors came ;
And while with stern rebuke she
speaks thy name,
The ice about thy heart melts as the
snow
On mountain heights, and in swift
overflow
Comes gushing from thy lips in sobs
of shame.
Thou makest full confession; and a
gleam,
As of the dawn on some dark forest
cast,
Seems on thy lifted forehead to in-
crease ;
Lethe and Eunoë — the remembered
dream
And the forgotten sorrow — bring
at last
That perfect pardon which is perfect
peace.

V

I lift mine eyes, and all the windows
blaze
With forms of Saints and holy men
who died,
Here martyred and hereafter glori-
fied ;
And the great Rose upon its leaves
displays
Christ's Triumph, and the angelic
roundelays,
With splendor upon splendor multi-
plied ;

And Beatrice again at Dante's side
No more rebukes, but smiles her
words of praise.
And then the organ sounds, and un-
seen choirs
Sing the old Latin hymns of peace
and love
And benedictions of the Holy Ghost ;
And the melodious bells among the
spires
O'er all the house-tops and through
heaven above
Proclaim the elevation of the Host !

VI

O star of morning and of liberty !
O bringer of the light, whose splen-
dor shines
Above the darkness of the Apen-
nines,
Forerunner of the day that is to be !
The voices of the city and the sea,
The voices of the mountains and the
pines,
Repeat thy song, till the familiar
lines
Are footpaths for the thought of
Italy !
Thy flame is blown abroad from all
the heights,
Through all the nations, and a
sound is heard,
As of a mighty wind, and men de-
vout,
Strangers of Rome, and the new prose-
lytes,
In their own language hear thy
wondrous word,
And many are amazed and many
doubt.

NOËL

ENVOYÉ À M. AGASSIZ, LA VEILLE DE
NOËL, 1864, AVEC UN PANIER DE
VINS DIVERS

L'Académie en respect,
Nonobstant l'incorrection
A la faveur du sujet,
Ture-lure,
N'y fera point de rature ;
Noël ! ture-lure-lure.
GUI BARÔZAI

QUAND les astres de Noël
Brillaient, palpitaient au ciel,

Six gaillards, et chacun ivre,
Chantaient gaîment dans le givre,
 " Bons amis,
Allons donc chez Agassiz ! "

Ces illustres Pèlerins
D'Outre-Mer adroits et fins,
Se donnant des airs de prêtre,
À l'envi se vantaient d'être
 " Bons amis,
De Jean Rudolphe Agassiz ! "

Œil-de-Perdrix, grand farceur,
Sans reproche et sans pudeur,
Dans son patois de Bourgogne,
Bredouillait comme un ivrogne,
 " Bons amis,
J'ai dansé chez Agassiz ! "

Verzenay le Champenois,
Bon Français, point New-Yorquois, 20
Mais des environs d'Avize,
Fredonne à mainte reprise,
 " Bons amis,
J'ai chanté chez Agassiz ! "

À côté marchait un vieux
Hidalgo, mais non mousseux ;
Dans le temps de Charlemagne
Fut son père Grand d'Espagne !
 " Bons amis,
J'ai diné chez Agassiz ! "

Derrière eux un Bordelais,
Gascon, s'il en fut jamais,
Parfumé de poésie
Riait, chantait, plein de vie,

 " Bons amis,
J'ai soupé chez Agassiz ! "

Avec ce beau cadet roux,
Bras dessus et bras dessous,
Mine altière et couleur terne,
Vint le Sire de Sauterne ;
 " Bons amis,
J'ai couché chez Agassiz ! "

Mais le dernier de ces preux,
Était un pauvre Chartreux,
Qui disait, d'un ton robuste,
" Bénédiction sur le Juste !
 Bons amis,
Bénédissons Père Agassiz ! "

Ils arrivent trois à trois,
Montent l'escalier de bois
Clopin-clopant ! quel gendarme
Peut permettre ce vacarme,
 Bons amis,
À la porte d'Agassiz !

" Ouvrez donc, mon bon Seigneur,
Ouvrez vite et n'ayez peur ;
Ouvrez, ouvrez, car nous sommes
Gens de bien et gentilshommes,
 Bons amis
De la famille Agassiz ! "

Chut, ganaches ! taisez-vous !
C'en est trop de vos glouglous ;
Epargnez aux Philosophes
Vos abominables strophes !
 Bons amis,
Respectez mon Agassiz !

40

50

60

10

30

"A castle-builder, with his wooden blocks"

BIRDS OF PASSAGE

FLIGHT THE THIRD

FATA MORGANA

O SWEET illusions of Song,
That tempt me everywhere,
In the lonely fields, and the throng
Of the crowded thoroughfare !

I approach, and ye vanish away,
I grasp you, and ye are gone ;
But ever by night and by day,
The melody soundeth on.

As the weary traveller sees
 In desert or prairie vast,
 Blue lakes overhung with trees,
 That a pleasant shadow cast;

Fair towns with turrets high,
 And shining roofs of gold,
 That vanish as he draws nigh,
 Like mists together rolled, —

So I wander and wander along,
 And forever before me gleams
 The shining city of song,
 In the beautiful land of dreams.

But when I would enter the gate
 Of that golden atmosphere,
 It is gone, and I wonder and wait
 For the vision to reappear.

THE HAUNTED CHAMBER

EACH heart has its haunted chamber,
 Where the silent moonlight falls!
 On the floor are mysterious footsteps,
 There are whispers along the walls!

And mine at times is haunted
 By phantoms of the Past,
 As motionless as shadows
 By the silent moonlight cast.

A form sits by the window,
 That is not seen by day,
 For as soon as the dawn approaches
 It vanishes away.

It sits there in the moonlight,
 Itself as pale and still,
 And points with its airy finger
 Across the window-sill.

Without, before the window,
 There stands a gloomy pine,
 Whose boughs wave upward and
 downward
 As wave these thoughts of mine.

And underneath its branches
 Is the grave of a little child,
 Who died upon life's threshold,
 And never wept nor smiled.

What are ye, O pallid phantoms!
 That haunt my troubled brain?

That vanish when day approaches,
 And at night return again?

What are ye, O pallid phantoms!
 But the statues without breath,
 That stand on the bridge overarching
 The silent river of death?

THE MEETING

AFTER so long an absence
 At last we meet again:
 Does the meeting give us pleasure,
 Or does it give us pain?

The tree of life has been shaken,
 And but few of us linger now,
 Like the Prophet's two or three ber-
 ries
 In the top of the uppermost bough.

We cordially greet each other
 In the old, familiar tone;
 And we think, though we do not say it,
 How old and gray he is grown!

We speak of a Merry Christmas
 And many a Happy New Year;
 But each in his heart is thinking
 Of those that are not here.

We speak of friends and their for-
 tunes,
 And of what they did and said,
 Till the dead alone seem living,
 And the living alone seem dead.

And at last we hardly distinguish
 Between the ghosts and the guests;
 And a mist and shadow of sadness
 Steals over our merriest jests.

VOX POPULI

WHEN Mazárvan the Magician
 Journeyed westward through Ca-
 thay,
 Nothing heard he but the praises
 Of Badoura on his way.

But the lessening rumor ended
 When he came to Khaledan,
 There the folk were talking only
 Of Prince Camaralzaman.

So it happens with the poets:
 Every province hath its own;
 Camaralzaman is famous
 Where Badoura is unknown.

THE CASTLE-BUILDER

A GENTLE boy, with soft and silken
 locks,
 A dreamy boy, with brown and
 tender eyes,
 A castle-builder, with his wooden
 blocks,
 And towers that touch imaginary
 skies.

A fearless rider on his father's knee,
 An eager listener unto stories told
 At the Round Table of the nursery,
 Of heroes and adventures manifold.

There will be other towers for thee to
 build;
 There will be other steeds for thee
 to ride;
 There will be other legends, and all
 filled
 With greater marvels and more
 glorified.

Build on, and make thy castles high
 and fair,
 Rising and reaching upward to the
 skies;
 Listen to voices in the upper air,
 Nor lose thy simple faith in myste-
 ries.

CHANGED

FROM the outskirts of the town,
 Where of old the mile-stone stood,
 Now a stranger, looking down,
 I behold the shadowy crown
 Of the dark and haunted wood.

Is it changed, or am I changed?
 Ah! the oaks are fresh and green,
 But the friends with whom I ranged
 Through their thickets are estranged
 By the years that intervene.

Bright as ever flows the sea,
 Bright as ever shines the sun,

But alas! they seem to me
 Not the sun that used to be,
 Not the tides that used to run.

THE CHALLENGE

I HAVE a vague remembrance
 Of a story, that is told
 In some ancient Spanish legend
 Or chronicle of old.

It was when brave King Sanchez
 Was before Zamora slain,
 And his great besieging army
 Lay encamped upon the plain.

Don Diego de Ordoñez
 Sallied forth in front of all, 10
 And shouted loud his challenge
 To the warders on the wall.

All the people of Zamora,
 Both the born and the unborn,
 As traitors did he challenge
 With taunting words of scorn.

The living, in their houses,
 And in their graves, the dead!
 And the waters of their rivers,
 And their wine, and oil, and bread!

There is a greater army, 21
 That besets us round with strife,
 A starving, numberless army,
 At all the gates of life.

The poverty-stricken millions
 Who challenge our wine and bread,
 And impeach us all as traitors,
 Both the living and the dead.

And whenever I sit at the banquet,
 Where the feast and song are high,
 Amid the mirth and the music 31
 I can hear that fearful cry.

And hollow and haggard faces
 Look into the lighted hall,
 And wasted hands are extended
 To catch the crumbs that fall.

For within there is light and plenty,
 And odors fill the air;
 But without there is cold and darkness,
 And hunger and despair. 40

And there in the camp of famine
In wind and cold and rain,
Christ, the great Lord of the army,
Lies dead upon the plain!

THE BROOK AND THE WAVE

THE brooklet came from the mountain,
As sang the bard of old,

And has filled with its freshness and
sweetness
That turbulent, bitter heart!

AFTERMATH

WHEN the summer fields are mown,
When the birds are fledged and flown,
And the dry leaves strew the path;
With the falling of the snow,

"The brooklet came from the mountain"

Running with feet of silver
Over the sands of gold!

Far away in the briny ocean
There rolled a turbulent wave,
Now singing along the sea-beach,
Now howling along the cave.

And the brooklet has found the bil-
low,
Though they flowed so far apart,

With the cawing of the crow,
Once again the fields we mow
And gather in the aftermath.

Not the sweet, new grass with flowers
Is this harvesting of ours;
Not the upland clover bloom;
But the rowen mixed with weeds,
Tangled tufts from marsh and meads,
Where the poppy drops its seeds
In the silence and the gloom.

Thalia

THE MASQUE OF PANDORA

I

THE WORKSHOP OF HEPHÆSTUS

HEPHÆSTUS (*standing before the statue of Pandora*).

Not fashioned out of gold, like Hera's throne,
Nor forged of iron like the thunder-bolts
Of Zeus omnipotent, or other works

Wrought by my hands at Lemnos or Olympus,
But moulded in soft clay, that unre-sisting
Yields itself to the touch, this lovely form
Before me stands, perfect in every part.
Not Aphrodite's self appeared more fair,
When first upwafted by caressing winds

She came to high Olympus, and the
 gods
 Paid homage to her beauty. Thus¹⁰
 her hair
 Was cinctured ; thus her floating dra-
 pery
 Was like a cloud about her, and her
 face
 Was radiant with the sunshine and the
 sea.

THE VOICE OF ZEUS.

Is thy work done, Hephæstus ?

HEPHÆSTUS.

It is finished !

THE VOICE.

Not finished till I breathe the breath of
 life
 Into her nostrils, and she moves and
 speaks.

HEPHÆSTUS.

Will she become immortal like our-
 selves ?

THE VOICE.

The form that thou hast fashioned out
 of clay
 Is of the earth and mortal ; but the
 spirit,²⁰
 The life, the exhalation of my breath,
 Is of diviner essence and immortal.
 The gods shall shower on her their
 benefactions.
 She shall possess all gifts : the gift of
 song,
 The gift of eloquence, the gift of
 beauty,
 The fascination and the nameless
 charm
 That shall lead all men captive.

HEPHÆSTUS.

Wherefore ? wherefore ?

A wind shakes the house.

I hear the rushing of a mighty wind
 Through all the halls and chambers of
 my house !
 Her parted lips inhale it, and her
 bosom³⁰
 Heaves with the inspiration. As a
 reed
 Beside a river in the rippling current

Bends to and fro, she bows or lifts her
 head.

She gazes round about as if amazed ;
 She is alive ; she breathes, but yet she
 speaks not !

PANDORA descends from the pedestal.

CHORUS OF THE GRACES

AGLAIA.

In the workshop of Hephæstus
 What is this I see ?

Have the Gods to four increased us
 Who were only three ?

Beautiful in form and feature,⁴⁰
 Lovely as the day,
 Can there be so fair a creature
 Formed of common clay ?

THALIA.

O sweet, pale face ! O lovely eyes of
 azure,
 Clear as the waters of a brook that
 run

Limpid and laughing in the summer
 sun !

O golden hair, that like a miser's
 treasure

In its abundance overflows the mea-
 sure !

O graceful form, that cloudlike float-
 est on

With the soft, undulating gait of one
 Who moveth as if motion were a
 pleasure !⁵¹

By what name shall I call thee ?
 Nymph or Muse,
 Callirrhoe or Urania ? Some sweet
 name

Whose every syllable is a caress
 Would best befit thee ; but I cannot
 choose,

Nor do I care to choose ; for still the
 same,

Nameless or named, will be thy
 loveliness.

EUPHROSYNE.

Dowered with all celestial gifts,
 Skilled in every art

That ennobles and uplifts⁶⁰
 And delights the heart,

Fair on earth shall be thy fame
 As thy face is fair,

And Pandora be the name
 Thou henceforth shalt bear.

II

OLYMPUS

HERMES (*putting on his sandals*).

Much must he toil who serves the Im-
mortal Gods,
And I, who am their herald, most of all.
No rest have I, nor respite. I no
sooner
Unclasp the wingèd sandals from my
feet,
Than I again must clasp them, and
depart
Upon some foolish errand. But to-day⁷⁰
The errand is not foolish. Never yet
With greater joy did I obey the sum-
mons
That sends me earthward. I will fly
so swiftly
That my caduceus in the whistling air
Shall make a sound like the Pandæan
pipes,
Cheating the shepherds; for to-day I
go,
Commissioned by high-thundering
Zeus, to lead
A maiden to Prometheus, in his tower,
And by my cunning arguments per-
suade him⁸⁰
To marry her. What mischief lies
concealed
In this design I know not; but I know
Who thinks of marrying hath already
taken
One step upon the road to penitence.
Such embassies delight me. Forth I
launch
On the sustaining air, nor fear to fall
Like Icarus, nor swerve aside like him
Who drove amiss Hyperion's fiery
steeds.
I sink, I fly! The yielding element
Folds itself round about me like an
arm,⁹⁰
And holds me as a mother holds her
child.

III

TOWER OF PROMETHEUS ON
MOUNT CAUCASUS

PROMETHEUS.

I hear the trumpet of Alectryon
Proclaim the dawn. The stars begin
to fade,

And all the heavens are full of pro-
phecies
And evil auguries. Blood-red last
night
I saw great Kronos rise; the crescent
moon
Sank through the mist, as if it were
the scythe
His parricidal hand had flung far
down
The western steeps. O ye Immortal
Gods,
What evil are ye plotting and contriv-
ing?¹⁰⁰

HERMES and PANDORA at the threshold.

PANDORA.

I cannot cross the threshold. An un-
seen
And icy hand repels me. These blank
walls
Oppress me with their weight!

PROMETHEUS.

Powerful ye are,
But not omnipotent. Ye cannot fight
Against Necessity. The Fates control
you,
As they do us, and so far we are
equals!

PANDORA.

Motionless, passionless, companion-
less,
He sits there muttering in his beard.
His voice
Is like a river flowing underground!

HERMES.

Prometheus, hail!

PROMETHEUS.

Who calls me?

HERMES.

It is I. ¹¹⁰

Dost thou not know me?

PROMETHEUS.

By thy wingèd cap
And wingèd heels I know thee. Thou
art Hermes,
Captain of thieves! Hast thou again
been stealing
The heifers of Admetus in the sweet

Meadows of asphodel? or Hera's gir-
dle?
Or the earth-shaking trident of Posei-
don?

HERMES.

And thou, Prometheus; say, hast thou
again
Been stealing fire from Helios' chariot-
wheels
To light thy furnaces?

PROMETHEUS.

Why comest thou hither
So early in the dawn?

HERMES.

The Immortal Gods 120
Know naught of late or early. Zeus
himself,
The omnipotent, hath sent me.

PROMETHEUS.

For what purpose?

HERMES.

To bring this maiden to thee.

PROMETHEUS.

I mistrust
The Gods and all their gifts. If they
have sent her
It is for no good purpose.

HERMES.

What disaster
Could she bring on thy house, who is
a woman?

PROMETHEUS.

The Gods are not my friends, nor am
I theirs.
Whatever comes from them, though in
a shape
As beautiful as this, is evil only. 129
Who art thou?

PANDORA.

One, who, though to thee unknown,
Yet knoweth thee.

PROMETHEUS.

How shouldst thou know me, woman?

PANDORA.

Who knoweth not Prometheus the humane?

PROMETHEUS.

Prometheus the unfortunate; to whom
Both Gods and men have shown themselves ungrateful.

When every spark was quenched on every hearth

Throughout the earth, I brought to man the fire

And all its ministrations. My reward
Hath been the rock and vulture.

HERMES.

But the Gods
At last relent and pardon.

PROMETHEUS.

They relent not;
They pardon not; they are implacable,
Revengeful, unforgiving!

HERMES.

As a pledge
Of reconciliation they have sent to thee
This divine being, to be thy companion,
And bring into thy melancholy house
The sunshine and the fragrance of her youth.

✓PROMETHEUS.

I need them not. I have within myself
All that my heart desires; the ideal beauty
Which the creative faculty of mind
Fashions and follows in a thousand shapes
More lovely than the real. My own thoughts
Are my companions; my designs and labors
And aspirations are my only friends.

HERMES.

Decide not rashly. The decision made
Can never be recalled. The Gods implore not,

Plead not, solicit not; they only offer
Choice and occasion, which once being passed

Return no more. Dost thou accept the gift?

PROMETHEUS.

No gift of theirs, in whatsoever shape
It comes to me, with whatsoever charm

To fascinate my sense, will I receive.
Leave me.

PANDORA.

Let us go hence. I will not stay

HERMES.

We leave thee to thy vacant dreams,
and all
The silence and the solitude of thought,
The endless bitterness of unbelief,
The loneliness of existence without love.

CHORUS OF THE FATES

CLOTHO.

How the Titan, the defiant,
The self-centred, self-reliant,
Wrapped in visions and illusions,
Robs himself of life's best gifts!
Till by all the storm-winds shaken,
By the blast of fate o'ertaken,
Hopeless, helpless, and forsaken,
In the mists of his confusions
To the reefs of doom he drifts!

LACHESIS.

Sorely tried and sorely tempted,
From no agonies exempted,
In the penance of his trial,
And the discipline of pain;
Often by illusions cheated,
Often baffled and defeated
In the tasks to be completed,
He, by toil and self-denial,
To the highest shall attain.

ATROPOS.

Tempt no more the noble schemer;
Bear unto some idle dreamer
This new toy and fascination,
This new dalliance and delight!
To the garden where reposes

Epimetheus crowned with roses,
To the door that never closes 190
Upon pleasure and temptation,
Bring this vision of the night!

IV

THE AIR

HERMES (*returning to Olympus*).

As lonely as the tower that he inhabits,
As firm and cold as are the crags about
him,
Prometheus stands. The thunderbolts
of Zeus
Alone can move him; but the tender
heart
Of Epimetheus, burning at white
heat,
Hammers and flames like all his bro-
ther's forges!
Now as an arrow from Hyperion's
bow,
My errand done, I fly, I float, I soar 200
Into the air, returning to Olympus.
O joy of motion! O delight to cleave
The infinite realms of space, the
liquid ether,
Through the warm sunshine and the
cooling cloud,
Myself as light as sunbeam or as
cloud!
With one touch of my swift and
wingèd feet,
I spurn the solid earth, and leave it
rocking
As rocks the bough from which a bird
takes wing.

V

THE HOUSE OF EPIMETHEUS

EPIMETHEUS.

Beautiful apparition! go not hence!
Surely thou art a Goddess, for thy
voice 210
Is a celestial melody, and thy form
Self-poised as if it floated on the air!

PANDORA.

No Goddess am I, nor of heavenly
birth,
But a mere woman fashioned out of
clay
And mortal as the rest.

EPIMETHEUS.

Thy face is fair;
There is a wonder in thine azure
eyes
That fascinates me. Thy whole pre-
sence seems
A soft desire, a breathing thought of
love.
Say, would thy star like Merope's
grow dim
If thou shouldst wed beneath thee?

PANDORA.

Ask me not; 220
I cannot answer thee. I only know
The Gods have sent me hither.

EPIMETHEUS.

I believe,
And thus believing am most fortu-
nate.
It was not Hermes led thee here, but
Eros,
And swifter than his arrows were
thine eyes
In wounding me. There was no mo-
ment's space
Between my seeing thee and loving
thee.
Oh, what a telltale face thou hast!
Again
I see the wonder in thy tender eyes.

PANDORA.

They do but answer to the love in
thine, 230
Yet secretly I wonder thou shouldst
love me.
Thou knowest me not.

EPIMETHEUS.

Perhaps I know thee better
Than had I known thee longer. Yet
it seems
That I have always known thee, and
but now
Have found thee. Ah, I have been
waiting long.

PANDORA.

How beautiful is this house! The at-
mosphere
Breathes rest and comfort, and the
many chambers
Seem full of welcomes.

EPIMETHEUS.

They not only seem,
But truly are. This dwelling and its
master
Belong to thee.

PANDORA.

Here let me stay forever ! 240
There is a spell upon me.

EPIMETHEUS.

Thou thyself
Art the enchantress, and I feel thy
power
Envelop me, and wrap my soul and
sense
In an Elysian dream.

PANDORA.

Oh, let me stay.
How beautiful are all things round
about me,
Multiplied by the mirrors on the walls !
What treasures hast thou here ! Yon
oaken chest,
Carven with figures and embossed
with gold,
Is wonderful to look upon ! What
choice
And precious things dost thou keep
hidden in it? 250

EPIMETHEUS.

I know not. 'T is a mystery.

PANDORA.

Hast thou never
Lifted the lid?

EPIMETHEUS.

The oracle forbids.
Safely concealed there from all mortal
eyes
Forever sleeps the secret of the Gods.
Seek not to know what they have hid-
den from thee,
Till they themselves reveal it.

PANDORA.

As thou wilt.

EPIMETHEUS.

Let us go forth from this mysterious
place.
The garden walks are pleasant at this
hour ;
The nightingales among the sheltering
boughs
Of populous and many-nested trees 260

Shall teach me how to woo thee, and
shall tell me
By what resistless charms or incanta-
tions
They won their mates.

PANDORA.

Thou dost not need a teacher.
They go out.

CHORUS OF THE EUMENIDES.

What the Immortals
Confide to thy keeping,
Tell unto no man ;
Waking or sleeping,
Closed be thy portals
To friend as to foeman.

Silence conceals it ; 270
The word that is spoken
Betrays and reveals it ;
By breath or by token
The charm may be broken.

With shafts of their splendors
The Gods unforgiving
Pursue the offenders,
The dead and the living !
Fortune forsakes them,
Nor earth shall abide them, 280
Nor Tartarus hide them ;
Swift wrath overtakes them.

With useless endeavor,
Forever, forever,
Is Sisyphus rolling
His stone up the mountain !
Immersed in the fountain,
Tantalus tastes not
The water that wastes not !
Through ages increasing 290
The pangs that afflict him,
With motion unceasing
The wheel of Ixion
Shall torture its victim !

VI

IN THE GARDEN

EPIMETHEUS.

Yon snow-white cloud that sails sub-
lime in ether
Is but the sovereign Zeus, who like a
swan
Flies to fair-ankled Leda !

"Nor thou as Pan be rude and mannerless"

PANDORA.

Or perchance
Ixion's cloud, the shadowy shape of
Hera,
That bore the Centaurs.

EPIMETHEUS.

The divine and human.

CHORUS OF BIRDS.

Gently swaying to and fro, 300
Rocked by all the winds that blow,
Bright with sunshine from above,
Dark with shadow from below,
Beak to beak and breast to breast
In the cradle of their nest,
Lie the fledglings of our love.

ECHO.

Love! love!

EPIMETHEUS.

Hark! listen! Hear how sweetly over-
head
The feathered flute-players pipe their
songs of love,
And Echo answers, love and only love.

CHORUS OF BIRDS.

Every flutter of the wing, 310
Every note of song we sing,
Every murmur, every tone,
Is of love and love alone.

ECHO.

Love alone!

EPIMETHEUS.

Who would not love, if loving she
might be
Changed like Callisto to a star in hea-
ven?

PANDORA.

Ah, who would love, if loving she
might be
Like Semele consumed and burnt to
ashes?

EPIMETHEUS.

Whence knowest thou these stories?

PANDORA.

Hermes taught me;
He told me all the history of the Gods.

CHORUS OF REEDS.

Evermore a sound shall be 320
In the reeds of Arcady,
Evermore a low lament
Of unrest and discontent,
As the story is retold
Of the nymph so coy and cold,
Who with frightened feet outran
The pursuing steps of Pan.

EPIMETHEUS.

The pipe of Pan out of these reeds is
made,
And when he plays upon it to the
shepherds
They pity him, so mournful is the
sound. 330
Be thou not coy and cold as Syrinx
was.

PANDORA.

Nor thou as Pan be rude and manner-
less.

PROMETHEUS (*without*).

Ho! Epimetheus!

EPIMETHEUS.

'T is my brother's voice;
A sound unwelcome and inopportune
As was the braying of Silenus' ass
Once heard in Cybele's garden.

PANDORA.

Let me go.
I would not be found here. I would
not see him.

She escapes among the trees.

CHORUS OF DRYADES.

Haste and hide thee,
Ere too late,
In these thickets intricate; 340
Lest Prometheus
See and chide thee,
Lest some hurt
Or harm betide thee,
Haste and hide thee!

PROMETHEUS (*entering*).

Who was it fled from here? I saw a
shape
Flitting among the trees.

EPIMETHEUS.

It was Pandora.

PROMETHEUS.

O Epimetheus! Is it then in vain
That I have warned thee? Let me
now implore.
Thou harborest in thy house a danger-
ous guest. 350

EPIMETHEUS.

Whom the Gods love they honor with
such guests.

PROMETHEUS.

Whom the Gods would destroy they
first make mad.

EPIMETHEUS.

Shall I refuse the gifts they send to
me?

PROMETHEUS.

Reject all gifts that come from higher
powers.

EPIMETHEUS.

Such gifts as this are not to be re-
jected.

PROMETHEUS.

Make not thyself the slave of any wo-
man.

EPIMETHEUS.

Make not thyself the judge of any
man.

PROMETHEUS.

I judge thee not; for thou art more
than man;
Thou art descended from Titanic race.

And hast a Titan's strength and faculties
 That make thee godlike; and thou³⁶⁰
 Like Heracles spinning Omphale's
 And beaten with her sandals.

EPIMETHEUS.

O my brother!
 Thou drivest me to madness with thy
 taunts.

PROMETHEUS.

And me thou drivest to madness with
 thy follies.
 Come with me to my tower on Cau-
 casus:
 See there my forges in the roaring
 caverns,
 Beneficent to man, and taste the joy
 That springs from labor. Read with
 me the stars,
 And learn the virtues that lie hidden
 in plants,³⁷⁰
 And all things that are useful.

EPIMETHEUS.

O my brother!
 I am not as thou art. Thou dost in-
 herit
 Our father's strength, and I our mo-
 ther's weakness:
 The softness of the Oceanides,
 The yielding nature that cannot re-
 sist.

PROMETHEUS.

Because thou wilt not.

EPIMETHEUS.

Nay; because I cannot.

PROMETHEUS.

Assert thyself; rise up to thy full
 height;
 Shake from thy soul these dreams ef-
 feminate,
 These passions born of indolence and
 ease.
 Resolve, and thou art free. But
 breathe the air³⁸⁰
 Of mountains, and their unapproach-
 able summits
 Will lift thee to the level of them-
 selves.

EPIMETHEUS.

The roar of forests and of waterfalls,
 The rushing of a mighty wind, with
 loud
 And undistinguishable voices calling,
 Are in my ear!

PROMETHEUS.

Oh, listen and obey.

EPIMETHEUS.

Thou leadest me as a child. I follow
 thee.

They go out.

CHORUS OF OREADES.

Centuries old are the mountains;
 Their foreheads wrinkled and rifted
 Helios crowns by day,³⁹⁰
 Pallid Selene by night;
 From their bosoms uptossed
 The snows are driven and drifted,
 Like Tithonus' beard
 Streaming dishevelled and white.

Thunder and tempest of wind
 Their trumpets blow in the vastness;
 Phantoms of mist and rain,
 Cloud and the shadow of cloud,
 Pass and repass by the gates⁴⁰⁰
 Of their inaccessible fastness;
 Ever unmoved they stand,
 Solemn, eternal, and proud.

VOICES OF THE WATERS.

Flooded by rain and snow
 In their inexhaustible sources,
 Swollen by affluent streams
 Hurrying onward and hurled
 Headlong over the crags,
 The impetuous water-courses
 Rush and roar and plunge⁴¹⁰
 Down to the nethermost world.

Say, have the solid rocks
 Into streams of silver been melted,
 Flowing over the plains,
 Spreading to lakes in the fields?
 Or have the mountains, the giants,
 The ice-helmed, the forest-belted,
 Scattered their arms abroad;
 Flung in the meadows their shields?

VOICES OF THE WINDS.

High on their turreted cliffs⁴²⁰
 That bolts of thunder have shattered,

Storm-winds muster and blow
 Trumpets of terrible breath ;
 Then from the gateways rush,
 And before them routed and scattered
 Sullen the cloud-rack flies,
 Pale with the pallor of death.

Onward the hurricane rides,
 And flee for shelter the shepherds ;
 White are the frightened leaves, 430
 Harvests with terror are white ;
 Panic seizes the herds,
 And even the lions and leopards,
 Prowling no longer for prey,
 Crouch in their caverns with fright.

VOICES OF THE FORESTS.

Guarding the mountains around
 Majestic the forests are standing,
 Bright are their crested helms,
 Dark is their armor of leaves ;
 Filled with the breath of freedom 440
 Each bosom subsiding, expanding,
 Now like the ocean sinks,
 Now like the ocean upheaves.

Planted firm on the rock,
 With foreheads stern and defiant,
 Loud they shout to the winds,
 Loud to the tempest they call ;
 Naught but Olympian thunders,
 That blasted Titan and Giant,
 Them can uproot and o'erthrow, 450
 Shaking the earth with their fall.

CHORUS OF OREADES.

These are the Voices Three
 Of winds and forests and foun-
 tains,
 Voices of earth and of air,
 Murmur and rushing of streams,
 Making together one sound,
 The mysterious voice of the moun-
 tains,
 Waking the sluggard that sleeps,
 Waking the dreamer of dreams.

These are the Voices Three, 460
 That speak of endless endeavor,
 Speak of endurance and strength,
 Triumph and fulness of fame,
 Sounding about the world,
 An inspiration forever,
 Stirring the hearts of men,
 Shaping their end and their aim.

VII

THE HOUSE OF EPIMETHEUS

PANDORA.

Left to myself I wander as I will,
 And as my fancy leads me, through
 this house,
 Nor could I ask a dwelling more com-
 plete 470
 Were I indeed the Goddess that he
 deems me.
 No mansion of Olympus, framed to
 be
 The habitation of the Immortal Gods,
 Can be more beautiful. And this is
 mine,
 And more than this, the love where-
 with he crowns me.
 As if impelled by powers invisible
 And irresistible, my steps return
 Unto this spacious hall. All corri-
 dors
 And passages lead hither, and all
 doors
 But open into it. Yon mysterious
 chest 480
 Attracts and fascinates me. Would I
 knew
 What there lies hidden ! But the ora-
 cle
 Forbids. Ah me ! The secret then is
 safe.
 So would it be if it were in my keep-
 ing.
 A crowd of shadowy faces from the
 mirrors
 That line these walls are watching me.
 I dare not
 Lift up the lid. A hundred times the
 act
 Would be repeated, and the secret
 seen
 By twice a hundred incorporeal eyes.
She walks to the other side of the hall.
 My feet are weary, wandering to and
 fro, 490
 My eyes with seeing and my heart
 with waiting.
 I will lie here and rest till he re-
 turns,
 Who is my dawn, my day, my Helios.
*Throws herself upon a couch, and falls
 asleep.*

ZEPHYRUS.

Come from thy caverns dark and
deep,
O son of Erebus and Night;
All sense of hearing and of sight
Enfold in the serene delight
And quietude of sleep!

Set all thy silent sentinels 499
To bar and guard the Ivory Gate,
And keep the evil dreams of fate
And falsehood and infernal hate
Imprisoned in their cells.

But open wide the Gate of Horn,
Whence, beautiful as planets, rise
The dreams of truth, with starry
eyes,
And all the wondrous prophecies
And visions of the morn.

CHORUS OF DREAMS FROM THE IVORY
GATE.

Ye sentinels of sleep,
It is in vain ye keep 510
Your drowsy watch before the Ivory
Gate;
Though closed the portal seems,
The airy feet of dreams
Ye cannot thus in walls incarcerate.

We phantoms are and dreams
Born by Tartarean streams,
As ministers of the infernal powers;
O son of Erebus
And Night, behold! we thus
Elude your watchful warders on the
towers! 520

From gloomy Tartarus
The Fates have summoned us
To whisper in her ear, who lies
asleep,
A tale to fan the fire
Of her insane desire
To know a secret that the Gods would
keep.

This passion, in their ire,
The Gods themselves inspire,
To vex mankind with evils mani-
fold,
So that disease and pain 530
O'er the whole earth may reign,
And nevermore return the Age of
Gold.

PANDORA (*waking*).

A voice said in my sleep: "Do not
delay:

Do not delay; the golden moments fly!
The oracle hath forbidden; yet not
thee

Doth it forbid, but Epimetheus only!"
I am alone. These faces in the mirrors
Are but the shadows and phantoms of
myself;

They cannot help nor hinder. No one
sees me,

Save the all-seeing Gods, who, know-
ing good 540

And knowing evil, have created me
Such as I am, and filled me with desire
Of knowing good and evil like them-
selves.

She approaches the chest.

I hesitate no longer. Weal or woe,
Or life or death, the moment shall de-
cide.

*She lifts the lid. A dense mist rises
from the chest, and fills the room.
PANDORA falls senseless on the floor.
Storm without.*

CHORUS OF DREAMS FROM THE GATE
OF HORN.

Yes, the moment shall decide!
It already hath decided;
And the secret once confided
To the keeping of the Titan
Now is flying far and wide, 550
Whispered, told on every side,
To disquiet and to frighten.

Fever of the heart and brain,
Sorrow, pestilence, and pain,
Moans of anguish, maniac laughter,
All the evils that hereafter
Shall afflict and vex mankind,
All into the air have risen
From the chambers of their prison;
Only Hope remains behind. 560

VIII

IN THE GARDEN

EPIMETHEUS.

The storm is past, but it hath left be-
hind it
Ruin and desolation. All the walks

Are strewn with shattered boughs ;
 the birds are silent ;
 The flowers, downtrodden by the
 wind, lie dead ;
 The swollen rivulet sobs with secret
 pain ;
 The melancholy reeds whisper to-
 gether
 As if some dreadful deed had been
 committed
 They dare not name, and all the air is
 heavy
 With an unspoken sorrow ! Premoni-
 tions,
 Foreshadowings of some terrible disas-
 ter
 Oppress my heart. Ye Gods, avert⁵⁷⁰
 the omen !

PANDORA, *coming from the house.*
 O Epimetheus, I no longer dare
 To lift mine eyes to thine, nor hear
 thy voice,
 Being no longer worthy of thy love.

EPIMETHEUS
 What hast thou done ?

PANDORA.
 Forgive me not, but kill me

EPIMETHEUS.
 What hast thou done ?

PANDORA.
 I pray for death, not pardon.

EPIMETHEUS.

What hast thou done?

PANDORA.

I dare not speak of it.

EPIMETHEUS.

Thy pallor and thy silence terrify
me!

PANDORA.

I have brought wrath and ruin on thy
house!
My heart hath braved the oracle that
guarded⁵⁸⁰
The fatal secret from us, and my
hand
Lifted the lid of the mysterious
chest!

EPIMETHEUS.

Then all is lost! I am indeed un-
done.

PANDORA.

I pray for punishment, and not for
pardon.

EPIMETHEUS.

Mine is the fault, not thine. On me
shall fall
The vengeance of the Gods, for I be-
trayed
Their secret when, in evil hour, I
said
It was a secret; when, in evil
hour,
I left thee here alone to this tempta-
tion.
Why did I leave thee?

PANDORA.

Why didst thou return? ⁵⁹⁰
Eternal absence would have been to
me
The greatest punishment. To be left
alone
And face to face with my own crime,
had been
Just retribution. Upon me, ye
Gods,
Let all your vengeance fall!

EPIMETHEUS.

On thee and me.

I do not love thee less for what is
done,
And cannot be undone. Thy very
weakness
Hath brought thee nearer to me, and
henceforth
My love will have a sense of pity in
it,
Making it less a worship than be-⁵⁹⁹
fore.

PANDORA.

Pity me not; pity is degradation.
Love me and kill me.

EPIMETHEUS.

Beautiful Pandora!
Thou art a Goddess still!

PANDORA.

I am a woman;
And the insurgent demon in my na-
ture,
That made me brave the oracle, re-
volts
At pity and compassion. Let me
die;
What else remains for me?

EPIMETHEUS.

Youth, hope, and love:
To build a new life on a ruined
life,
To make the future fairer than the
past,
And make the past appear a troubled
dream.⁶¹⁰
Even now in passing through the gar-
den walks
Upon the ground I saw a fallen
nest
Ruined and full of rain; and over
me
Beheld the uncomplaining birds
already
Busy in building a new habitation.

PANDORA.

Auspicious omen!

EPIMETHEUS.

May the Eumenides
Put out their torches and behold us
not,

And fling away their whips of scorpions
And touch us not.

PANDORA.

Me let them punish.
Only through punishment of our evil
deeds, 630
Only through suffering, are we reconciled
To the immortal Gods and to ourselves.

CHORUS OF THE EUMENIDES.

Never shall souls like these
Escape the Eumenides,
The daughters dark of Acheron and
Night!

Unquenched our torches glare,
Our scourges in the air
Send forth prophetic sounds before
they smite.

Never by lapse of time
The soul defaced by crime 630
Into its former self returns again ;
For every guilty deed
Holds in itself the seed
Of retribution and undying pain.

Never shall be the loss
Restored, till Helios
Hath purified them with his heavenly
fires;
Then what was lost is won,
And the new life begun,
Kindled with nobler passions and de-
sires. 640

"Never shall souls like these
Escape the Eumenides"

"They want no guests ; they needs must be
Each other's own best company "

THE HANGING OF THE CRANE

I

The lights are out, and gone are all
the guests
That thronging came with merriment
and jests
To celebrate the Hanging of the
Crane
In the new house, — into the night are
gone ;
But still the fire upon the hearth burns
on,
And I alone remain.

O fortunate, O happy day,
When a new household finds its place
Among the myriad homes of earth,
Like a new star just sprung to birth,
And rolled on its harmonious way 11
Into the boundless realms of space!

So said the guests in speech and
song,
As in the chimney, burning bright,
We hung the iron crane to-night,
And merry was the feast and long.

II

And now I sit and muse on what may
be,
And in my vision see, or seem to see,
Through floating vapors interfused
with light,
Shapes indeterminate, that gleam and
fade, 20
As shadows passing into deeper shade
Sink and elude the sight.

For two alone, there in the hall,
Is spread the table round and small;

Upon the polished silver shine
The evening lamps, but, more divine,
The light of love shines over all;
Of love, that says not mine and thine,
But ours, for ours is thine and mine.

They want no guests, to come between
Their tender glances like a screen, 31
And tell them tales of land and sea,
And whatsoever may betide
The great, forgotten world outside;
They want no guests; they needs
must be
Each other's own best company.

III

The picture fades; as at a village fair
A showman's views, dissolving into
air,
Again appear transfigured on the
screen,
So in my fancy this; and now once
more, 40
In part transfigured, through the open
door
Appears the selfsame scene.

Seated, I see the two again,
But not alone; they entertain
A little angel unaware,
With face as round as is the moon,
A royal guest with flaxen hair,
Who, throned upon his lofty chair,
Drums on the table with his spoon,
Then drops it careless on the floor, 50
To grasp at things unseen before.

Are these celestial manners? these
The ways that win, the arts that
please?

Ah yes; consider well the guest,
And whatsoe'er he does seems best;
He ruleth by the right divine
Of helplessness, so lately born
In purple chambers of the morn,
As sovereign over thee and thine.
He speaketh not; and yet there lies 60
A conversation in his eyes;
The golden silence of the Greek,
The gravest wisdom of the wise,
Not spoken in language, but in looks
More legible than printed books,
As if he could but would not speak.
And now, O monarch absolute,
Thy power is put to proof; for, lo!
Resistless, fathomless, and slow, 69

The nurse comes rustling like the sea,
And pushes back thy chair and thee,
And so good-night to King Canute.

IV

As one who walking in a forest sees
A lovely landscape through the parted
trees,
Then sees it not, for boughs that
intervene;
Or as we see the moon sometimes re-
vealed
Through drifting clouds, and then
again concealed,
So I behold the scene.

There are two guests at table now;
The king, deposed and older grown, 80
No longer occupies the throne, —
The crown is on his sister's brow;
A Princess from the Fairy Isles,
The very pattern girl of girls,
All covered and embowered in curls,
Rose-tinted from the Isle of Flowers,
And sailing with soft, silken sails
From far-off Dreamland into ours.
Above their bowls with rims of blue
Four azure eyes of deeper hue 90
Are looking, dreamy with delight;
Limpid as planets that emerge
Above the ocean's rounded verge,
Soft-shining through the summer
night.

Steadfast they gaze, yet nothing see
Beyond the horizon of their bowls;
Nor care they for the world that rolls
With all its freight of troubled souls
Into the days that are to be.

V

Again the tossing boughs shut out the
scene, 100
Again the drifting vapors intervene,
And the moon's pallid disk is hid-
den quite;
And now I see the table wider grown,
As round a pebble into water thrown
Dilates a ring of light.

I see the table wider grown,
I see it garlanded with guests,
As if fair Ariadne's Crown
Out of the sky had fallen down; 109
Maidens within whose tender breasts
A thousand restless hopes and fears,
Forth reaching to the coming years,

Flutter awhile, then quiet lie,
Like timid birds that fain would fly,
But do not dare to leave their nests ; —
And youths, who in their strength
 elate

Challenge the van and front of fate,
Eager as champions to be
In the divine knight-errantry
Of youth, that travels sea and land 120
Seeking adventures, or pursues,
Through cities, and through solitudes
Frequented by the lyric Muse,
The phantom with the beckoning
 hand,
That still allures and still eludes.
O sweet illusions of the brain !
O sudden thrills of fire and frost !
The world is bright while ye remain,
And dark and dead when ye are lost !

VI

The meadow-brook, that seemeth to
 stand still, 130
Quickens its current as it nears the
 mill ;
And so the stream of Time that
 lingereth
In level places, and so dull appears,
Runs with a swifter current as it nears
The gloomy mills of Death.

And now, like the magician's scroll,
That in the owner's keeping shrinks
With every wish he speaks or thinks,
Till the last wish consumes the whole,
The table dwindles, and again 140
I see the two alone remain.
The crown of stars is broken in parts ;
Its jewels, brighter than the day,
Have one by one been stolen away
To shine in other homes and hearts.
One is a wanderer now afar
In Ceylon or in Zanzibar,
Or sunny regions of Cathay ;
And one is in the boisterous camp 149
Mid clink of arms and horses' tramp,
And battle's terrible array.
I see the patient mother read,
With aching heart, of wrecks that
 float
Disabled on those seas remote,
Or of some great heroic deed
On battle-fields, where thousands bleed
To lift one hero into fame.

Anxious she bends her graceful head
Above these chronicles of pain,
And trembles with a secret dread 160
Lest there among the drowned or
 slain
She find the one beloved name.

VII

After a day of cloud and wind and
 rain
Sometimes the setting sun breaks out
 again,
And, touching all the darksome
 woods with light,
Smiles on the fields, until they laugh
 and sing,
Then like a ruby from the horizon's
 ring
Drops down into the night.

What see I now ? The night is fair,
The storm of grief, the clouds of
 care, 170
The wind, the rain, have passed away ;
The lamps are lit, the fires burn bright,
The house is full of life and light ;
It is the Golden Wedding day.
The guests come thronging in once
 more,
Quick footsteps sound along the floor,
The trooping children crowd the stair,
And in and out and everywhere
Flashes along the corridor
The sunshine of their golden hair. 180
On the round table in the hall
Another Ariadne's Crown
Out of the sky hath fallen down ;
More than one Monarch of the Moon
Is drumming with his silver spoon ;
The light of love shines over all.

O fortunate, O happy day !
The people sing, the people say.
The ancient bridegroom and the bride,
Smiling contented and serene 190
Upon the blithe, bewildering scene,
Behold, well pleased, on every side
Their forms and features multiplied,
As the reflection of a light
Between two burnished mirrors
 gleams,
Or lamps upon a bridge at night
Stretch on and on before the sight,
Till the long vista endless seems.

MORITURI SALUTAMUS

POEM FOR THE FIFTIETH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE CLASS OF
1825 IN BOWDOIN COLLEGE

*Tempore labuntur, tacitæque senectutinis ævis,
Et fugiunt freno non remorante dies.*
OVID, *Fastorum*, Lib. vi.

"O CÆSAR, we who are about to
die
Salute you!" was the gladiators' cry
In the arena, standing face to face
With death and with the Roman pop-
ulace.

O ye familiar scenes, — ye groves of
pine,
That once were mine and are no longer
mine, —

Thou river, widening through the
meadows green

To the vast sea, so near and yet un-
seen, —

Ye halls, in whose seclusion and repose
Phantoms of fame, like exhalations,
rose

And vanished, — we who are about to
die,

Salute you; earth and air and sea and
sky,

And the Imperial Sun that scatters
down

His sovereign splendors upon grove
and town.

Ye do not answer us! ye do not hear!
We are forgotten; and in your austere

And calm indifference, ye little care
Whether we come or go, or whence or
where.

What passing generations fill these
halls,
What passing voices echo from these
walls,
Ye heed not; we are only as the blast,
A moment heard, and then forever
past.

Not so the teachers who in earlier days
Led our bewildered feet through learn-
ing's maze;

They answer us — alas! what have I
said?

What greetings come there from the
voiceless dead?

What salutation, welcome, or reply?
What pressure from the hands that
lifeless lie?

They are no longer here; they all are
gone

Into the land of shadows, — all save
one.

Honor and reverence, and the good re-
pute

That follows faithful service as its
fruit,

Be unto him, whom living we salute.

The great Italian poet, when he made
His dreadful journey to the realms of
shade,

Met there the old instructor of his
youth,

And cried in tones of pity and of ruth:
"Oh, never from the memory of my
heart

Your dear, paternal image shall depart,
Who while on earth, ere yet by death
surprised,

Taught me how mortals are immortal-
ized;

How grateful am I for that patient
care

All my life long my language shall
declare."

To-day we make the poet's words our
own,

And utter them in plaintive under-
tone;

Nor to the living only be they said,
But to the other living called the dead,
Whose dear, paternal images appear

Not wrapped in gloom, but robed in
sunshine here;

Whose simple lives, complete and
without flaw,

Were part and parcel of great Nature's
law;

Who said not to their Lord, as if
afraid,

"Here is thy talent in a napkin laid,"
But labored in their sphere, as men
who live

In the delight that work alone can
give.

Peace be to them; eternal peace and
rest,

And the fulfilment of the great behest:
"Ye have been faithful over a few
things,

Over ten cities shall ye reign as kings."

And ye who fill the places we once
filled,

And follow in the furrows that we
tilled,

Young men, whose generous hearts
are beating high,

We who are old, and are about to die,
Salute you; hail you; take your hands
in ours,

And crown you with our welcome as
with flowers!

How beautiful is youth! how bright
it gleams

With its illusions, aspirations, dreams!
Book of Beginnings, Story without
End,

Each maid a heroine, and each man a
friend!

Aladdin's Lamp, and Fortunatus'
Purse,

That holds the treasures of the uni-
verse!

All possibilities are in its hands,
No danger daunts it, and no foe with-
stands;

In its sublime audacity of faith,
"Be thou removed!" it to the moun-
tain saith,

And with ambitious feet, secure and
proud,

Ascends the ladder leaning on the
cloud!

As ancient Priam at the Scæan gate
Sat on the walls of Troy in regal state

With the old men, too old and weak
to fight, ⁸⁰
Chirping like grasshoppers in their de-
light

To see the embattled hosts, with spear
and shield,

Of Trojans and Achaians in the field ;
So from the snowy summits of our
years

We see you in the plain, as each ap-
pears,

And question of you ; asking, " Who
is he

That towers above the others? Which
may be

Atreides, Menelaus, Odysseus,
Ajax the great, or bold Idomeneus ? "

Let him not boast who puts his armor
on ⁹⁰

As he who puts it off, the battle done.
Study yourselves ; and most of all note
well

Wherein kind Nature meant you to
excel.

Not every blossom ripens into fruit ;
Minerva, the inventress of the flute,
Flung it aside, when she her face sur-
veyed

Distorted in a fountain as she played ;
The unlucky Marsyas found it, and
his fate

Was one to make the bravest hesitate.

Write on your doors the saying wise
and old, ¹⁰⁰

" Be bold ! be bold ! " and every-
where, " Be bold ;

Be not too bold ! " Yet better the ex-
cess

Than the defect ; better the more than
less ;

Better like Hector in the field to die,
Than like a perfumed Paris turn and
fly.

And now, my classmates ; ye remain-
ing few

That number not the half of those we
knew,

Ye, against whose familiar names not
yet

The fatal asterisk of death is set,
Ye I salute ! The horologe of Time ¹¹⁰

Strikes the half-century with a solemn
chime,

And summons us together once again,
The joy of meeting not unmixed with
pain.

Where are the others ? Voices from
the deep

Caverns of darkness answer me :
" They sleep ! "

I name no names ; instinctively I feel
Each at some well-remembered grave
will kneel,

And from the inscription wipe the
weeds and moss,

For every heart best knoweth its own
loss.

I see their scattered gravestones gleam-
ing white ¹²⁰

Through the pale dusk of the impend-
ing night ;

O'er all alike the impartial sunset
throws

Its golden lilies mingled with the rose ;
We give to each a tender thought,
and pass

Out of the graveyards with their tan-
gled grass,

Unto these scenes frequented by our
feet

When we were young, and life was
fresh and sweet.

What shall I say to you ? What can I
say

Better than silence is ? When I survey
This throng of faces turned to meet
my own, ¹³⁰

Friendly and fair, and yet to me un-
known,

Transformed the very landscape seems
to be ;

It is the same, yet not the same to
me.

So many memories crowd upon my
brain,

So many ghosts are in the wooded
plain,

I fain would steal away, with noise-
less tread,

As from a house where some one lieth
dead.

I cannot go ; — I pause ; — I hesitate ;
My feet reluctant linger at the gate ;

As one who struggles in a troubled
dream ¹⁴⁰

To speak and cannot, to myself I
seem.

Vanish the dream! Vanish the idle
fears!

Vanish the rolling mists of fifty years!
Whatever time or space may inter-
vene,

I will not be a stranger in this scene.
Here every doubt, all indecision,
ends;

Hail, my companions, comrades, class-
mates, friends!

Ah me! the fifty years since last we
met

Seem to me fifty folios bound and set
By Time, the great transcriber, on his
shelves, 150

Wherein are written the histories of
ourselves.

What tragedies, what comedies, are
there;

What joy and grief, what rapture and
despair!

What chronicles of triumph and defeat,
Of struggle, and temptation, and re-
treat!

What records of regrets, and doubts,
and fears!

What pages blotted, blistered by our
tears!

What lovely landscapes on the margin
shine,

What sweet, angelic faces, what di-
vine

And holy images of love and trust, 160
Undimmed by age, unsoiled by damp
or dust!

Whose hand shall dare to open and
explore

These volumes, closed and clasped
forevermore?

Not mine. With reverential feet I

I hear a voice that cries, "Alas! alas!"

Whatever hath been written shall remain,
Nor be erased nor written o'er again ;
The unwritten only still belongs to thee:
Take heed, and ponder well what that shall be."

As children frightened by a thunder-cloud¹⁷⁰
Are reassured if some one reads aloud
A tale of wonder, with enchantment fraught,
Or wild adventure, that diverts their thought,
Let me endeavor with a tale to chase
The gathering shadows of the time and place,
And banish what we all too deeply feel
Wholly to say, or wholly to conceal.

In mediæval Rome, I know not where,
There stood an image with its arm in air,
And on its lifted finger, shining clear,
A golden ring with the device,
"Strike here!"¹⁸¹
Greatly the people wondered, though none guessed
The meaning that these words but half expressed,
Until a learned clerk, who at noonday
With downcast eyes was passing on his way,
Paused, and observed the spot, and marked it well,
Whereon the shadow of the finger fell;
And, coming back at midnight, delved, and found
A secret stairway leading underground.
Down this he passed into a spacious hall,¹⁹⁰
Lit by a flaming jewel on the wall;
And opposite, in threatening attitude,
With bow and shaft a brazen statue stood.
Upon its forehead, like a coronet,
Were these mysterious words of menace set:
"That which I am, I am; my fatal aim
None can escape, not even yon luminous flame!"

Midway the hall was a fair table placed,
With cloth of gold, and golden cups enchased
With rubies, and the plates and knives were gold,²⁰⁰
And gold the bread and viands manifold.
Around it, silent, motionless, and sad,
Were seated gallant knights in armor clad,
And ladies beautiful with plume and zone,
But they were stone, their hearts within were stone;
And the vast hall was filled in every part
With silent crowds, stony in face and heart.

Long at the scene, bewildered and amazed,
The trembling clerk in speechless wonder gazed;
Then from the table, by his greed made bold,²¹⁰
He seized a goblet and a knife of gold,
And suddenly from their seats the guests upsprang,
The vaulted ceiling with loud clamors rang,
The archer sped his arrow at their call,
Shattering the lambent jewel on the wall,
And all was dark around and overhead;—
Stark on the floor the luckless clerk lay dead!

The writer of this legend then records
Its ghostly application in these words:
The image is the Adversary old,²²⁰
Whose beckoning finger points to realms of gold;
Our lusts and passions are the downward stair
That leads the soul from a diviner air;
The archer, Death; the flaming jewel, Life;
Terrestrial goods, the goblet and the knife;
The knights and ladies, all whose flesh and bone
By avarice have been hardened into stone;

The clerk, the scholar whom the love
of pelf
Tempts from his books and from his
nobler self.

The scholar and the world! The end-
less strife, ²³⁰
The discord in the harmonies of life!
The love of learning, the sequestered
nooks,
And all the sweet serenity of books;
The market-place, the eager love of
gain,
Whose aim is vanity, and whose end is
pain!

But why, you ask me, should this tale
be told
To men grown old, or who are grow-
ing old?
It is too late! Ah, nothing is too late
Till the tired heart shall cease to pal-
pitate.
Cato learned Greek at eighty; Sopho-
cles ²⁴⁰
Wrote his grand *Œdipus*, and Simon-
ides
Bore off the prize of verse from his
compeers,
When each had numbered more than
fourscore years,
And Theophrastus, at fourscore and
ten,
Had but begun his "Characters of
Men."
Chaucer, at Woodstock with the night-
ingales,
At sixty wrote the *Canterbury Tales*;
Goethe at Weimar, toiling to the last,
Completed *Faust* when eighty years
were past.
These are indeed exceptions; but they
show ²⁵⁰
How far the gulf-stream of our youth
may flow
Into the arctic regions of our lives,
Where little else than life itself sur-
vives.

As the barometer foretells the storm
While still the skies are clear, the
weather warm,

So something in us, as old age draws
near,
Betrays the pressure of the atmos-
phere.

The nimble mercury, ere we are aware,
Descends the elastic ladder of the
air;
The telltale blood in artery and vein
Sinks from its higher levels in the
brain; ²⁶¹

Whatever poet, orator, or sage
May say of it, old age is still old age.
It is the waning, not the crescent
moon;

The dusk of evening, not the blaze of
noon;

It is not strength, but weakness; not
desire,

But its surcease; not the fierce heat of
fire,

The burning and consuming element,
But that of ashes and of embers
spent,

In which some living sparks we still
discern, ²⁷⁰

Enough to warm, but not enough to
burn.

What then? Shall we sit idly down
and say

The night hath come; it is no longer
day?

The night hath not yet come; we are
not quite

Cut off from labor by the failing light;
Something remains for us to do or
dare;

Even the oldest tree some fruit may
bear;

Not *Œdipus Coloneus*, or Greek Ode,
Or tales of pilgrims that one morning
rode ²⁷⁹

Out of the gateway of the Tabard
Inn,

But other something, would we but
begin;

For age is opportunity no less
Than youth itself, though in another
dress,

And as the evening twilight fades away
The sky is filled with stars, invisible
by day.

"River, that stealest with such silent pace
Around the City of the Dead"

A BOOK OF SONNETS

THREE FRIENDS OF MINE

I

WHEN I remember them, those friends
of mine,
Who are no longer here, the noble
three,
Who half my life were more than
friends to me,
And whose discourse was like a gen-
erous wine,
I most of all remember the divine
Something, that shone in them, and
made us see
The archetypal man, and what
might be
The amplitude of Nature's first de-
sign.
In vain I stretch my hands to clasp
their hands;
I cannot find them. Nothing now
is left
But a majestic memory. They
meanwhile
Wander together in Elysian lands,
Perchance remembering me, who am
bereft
Of their dear presence, and, remem-
bering, smile.

II

In Attica thy birthplace should have
been,
Or the Ionian Isles, or where the
seas
Encircle in their arms the Cy-
clades,
So wholly Greek wast thou in thy
serene
And childlike joy of life, O Philhel-
lenel
Around thee would have swarmed
the Attic bees;
Homer had been thy friend, or So-
crates,
And Plato welcomed thee to his de-
bating
For thee old legends breathed historic
breath;
Thou sawest Poseidon in the purple
sea,
And in the sunset Jason's fleece of
gold!
Oh, what hadst thou to do with cruel
Death,
Who wast so full of life, or Death
with thee,
That thou shouldst die before thou
hadst grown old!

III

I stand again on the familiar shore,
 And hear the waves of the distracted
 sea
 Piteously calling and lamenting
 thee,
 And waiting restless at thy cottage
 door.
 The rocks, the sea-weed on the ocean
 floor,
 The willows in the meadow, and
 the free
 Wild winds of the Atlantic welcome
 me ;
 Then why shouldst thou be dead,
 and come no more ?
 Ah, why shouldst thou be dead, when
 common men
 Are busy with their trivial affairs,
 Having and holding ? Why, when
 thou hadst read
 Nature's mysterious manuscript, and
 then
 Wast ready to reveal the truth it
 bears,
 Why art thou silent ? Why shouldst
 thou be dead ?

IV

River, that stealest with such silent
 pace
 Around the City of the Dead, where
 lies
 A friend who bore thy name, and
 whom these eyes
 Shall see no more in his accustomed
 place,
 Linger and fold him in thy soft em-
 brace,
 And say good-night, for now the
 western skies
 Are red with sunset, and gray mists
 arise
 Like damps that gather on a dead
 man's face.
 Good-night ! good-night ! as we so oft
 have said
 Beneath this roof at midnight, in
 the days
 That are no more, and shall no
 more return.
 Thou hast but taken thy lamp and
 gone to bed ;
 I stay a little longer, as one stays
 To cover up the embers that still
 burn.

V

The doors are all wide open ; at the
 gate
 The blossomed lilacs counterfeit a
 blaze,
 And seem to warm the air ; a dreamy
 haze
 Hangs o'er the Brighton meadows
 like a fate,
 And on their margin, with sea-tides
 elate,
 The flooded Charles, as in the hap-
 pier days,
 Writes the last letter of his name,
 and stays
 His restless steps, as if compelled to
 wait.
 I also wait ; but they will come no
 more,
 Those friends of mine, whose pre-
 sence satisfied
 The thirst and hunger of my heart.
 Ah me !
 They have forgotten the pathway to
 my door !
 Something is gone from nature since
 they died,
 And summer is not summer, nor can
 be.

CHAUCER

AN old man in a lodge within a park ;
 The chamber walls depicted all
 around
 With portraitures of huntsman,
 hawk, and hound,
 And the hurt deer. He listeneth to
 the lark,
 Whose song comes with the sunshine
 through the dark
 Of painted glass in leaden lattice
 bound ;
 He listeneth and he laugheth at the
 sound,
 Then writeth in a book like any
 clerk.
 He is the poet of the dawn, who
 wrote
 The Canterbury Tales, and his old
 age
 Made beautiful with song ; and as I
 read
 I hear the crowing cock, I hear the
 note

Of lark and linnet, and from every
page
Rise odors of ploughed field or flow-
ery mead.

SHAKESPEARE

A vision as of crowded city streets,
With human life in endless overflow;
Thunder of thoroughfares; trum-
pets that blow
To battle; clamor, in obscure re-
treats,
Of sailors landed from their anchored
fleets;

Whom all the Muses loved, not one
alone; —
Into his hands they put the lyre of
gold,
And, crowned with sacred laurel at
their fount,
Placed him as Musagetes on their
throne.

MILTON

I FACE the sounding sea-beach and be-
hold
How the voluminous billows roll
and run,

Shakespeare

Tolling of bells in turrets, and be-
low
Voices of children, and bright flow-
ers that throw
O'er garden-walls their intermingled
sweets!
This vision comes to me when I unfold
The volume of the Poet paramount,

Upheaving and subsiding, while the
sun
Shines through their sheeted emer-
ald far unrolled,
And the ninth wave, slow gathering
fold by fold
All its loose-flowing garments into
one,

Plunges upon the shore, and floods
 the dun
 Pale reach of sands, and changes
 them to gold.
 So in majestic cadence rise and fall
 The mighty undulations of thy
 song,
 O sightless bard, England's Mæon-
 ides!
 And ever and anon, high over all
 Uplifted, a ninth wave superb and
 strong,
 Floods all the soul with its melodi-
 ous seas.

KEATS

THE young Endymion sleeps Endy-
 mion's sleep;
 The shepherd-boy whose tale was
 left half told!
 The solemn grove uplifts its shield
 of gold
 To the red rising moon, and loud
 and deep
 The nightingale is singing from the
 steep;
 It is midsummer, but the air is
 cold;
 Can it be death? Alas, beside the fold
 A shepherd's pipe lies shattered
 near his sheep.
 Lo! in the moonlight gleams a marble
 white,
 On which I read: "Here lieth one
 whose name
 Was writ in water." And was this
 the meed
 Of his sweet singing? Rather let me
 write:
 "The smoking flax before it burst
 to flame
 Was quenched by death, and broken
 the bruised reed."

THE GALAXY

TORRENT of light and river of the air,
 Along whose bed the glimmering
 stars are seen
 Like gold and silver sands, in some
 ravine
 Where mountain streams have left
 their channels bare!

The Spaniard sees in thee the path-
 way, where
 His patron saint descended in the
 sheen
 Of his celestial armor, on serene
 And quiet nights, when all the hea-
 vens were fair.
 Not this I see, nor yet the ancient
 fable
 Of Phaeton's wild course, that
 scorched the skies
 Where'er the hoofs of his hot
 coursers trod;
 But the white drift of worlds o'er
 chasms of sable,
 The star-dust, that is whirled aloft
 and flies
 From the invisible chariot-wheels of
 God.

THE SOUND OF THE SEA

THE sea awoke at midnight from its
 sleep,
 And round the pebbly beaches far
 and wide
 I heard the first wave of the rising
 tide
 Rush onward with uninterrupted
 sweep;
 A voice out of the silence of the deep,
 A sound mysteriously multiplied
 As of a cataract from the mountain's
 side,
 Or roar of winds upon a wooded
 steep.
 So comes to us at times, from the un-
 known
 And inaccessible solitudes of being,
 The rushing of the sea-tides of the
 soul;
 And inspirations, that we deem our
 own,
 Are some divine foreshadowing and
 foreseeing
 Of things beyond our reason or
 control.

A SUMMER DAY BY THE SEA

THE sun is set; and in his latest
 beams
 Yon little cloud of ashen gray and
 gold,

Slowly upon the amber air un-
rolled,
The falling mantle of the Prophet
seems.
From the dim headlands many a light-
house gleams,
The street-lamps of the ocean; and
behold,
O'erhead the banners of the night
unfold;
The day hath passed into the land
of dreams.
O summer day beside the joyous
sea!
O summer day so wonderful and
white,
So full of gladness and so full of
pain!
Forever and forever shalt thou be
To some the gravestone of a dead
delight,
To some the landmark of a new do-
main.

THE TIDES

I saw the long line of the vacant
shore,
The sea-weed and the shells upon
the sand,
And the brown rocks left bare on
every hand,
As if the ebbing tide would flow no
more.
Then heard I, more distinctly than
before,
The ocean breathe and its great
breast expand,
And hurrying came on the defence-
less land
The insurgent waters with tumultu-
ous roar.
All thought and feeling and desire, I
said,
Love, laughter, and the exultant
joy of song
Have ebbed from me forever! Sud-
denly o'er me
They swept again from their deep
ocean bed,
And in a tumult of delight, and
strong
As youth, and beautiful as youth,
upbore me.

A SHADOW

I SAID unto myself, if I were dead,
What would befall these children?
What would be
Their fate, who now are looking
up to me
For help and furtherance? Their
lives, I said,
Would be a volume wherein I have
read
But the first chapters, and no longer
see
To read the rest of their dear history,
So full of beauty and so full of
dread.
Be comforted; the world is very old,
And generations pass, as they have
passed,
A troop of shadows moving with
the sun;
Thousands of times has the old tale
been told;
The world belongs to those who
come the last,
They will find hope and strength as
we have done.

A NAMELESS GRAVE

"A SOLDIER of the Union mustered
out,"
Is the inscription on an unknown
grave
At Newport News, beside the salt-
sea wave,
Nameless and dateless; sentinel or
scout
Shot down in skirmish, or disastrous
rout
Of battle, when the loud artillery
drave
Its iron wedges through the ranks
of brave
And doomed battalions, storming
the redoubt.
Thou unknown hero sleeping by the
sea
In thy forgotten grave! with secret
shame
I feel my pulses beat, my forehead
burn,
When I remember thou hast given
for me

All that thou hadst, thy life, thy
very name,
And I can give thee nothing in re-
turn.

SLEEP

LULL me to sleep, ye winds, whose
fitful sound
Seems from some faint Æolian
harp-string caught ;

THE OLD BRIDGE AT FLOR-
ENCE

TADDEO GADDI built me. I am old,
Five centuries old. I plant my foot
of stone
Upon the Arno, as St. Michael's
own
Was planted on the dragon. Fold
by fold
Beneath me as it struggles, I behold

Ponte Vecchio

Seal up the hundred wakeful eyes
of thought
As Hermes with his lyre in sleep
profound
The hundred wakeful eyes of Argus
bound ;
For I am weary, and am over-
wrought
With too much toil, with too much
care distraught,
And with the iron crown of anguish
crowned.
Lay thy soft hand upon my brow and
cheek,
O peaceful Sleep ! until from pain
released
I breathe again uninterrupted
breath !
Ah, with what subtle meaning did the
Greek
Call thee the lesser mystery at the
feast
Whereof the greater mystery is
death !

Its glistening scales. Twice hath it
overthrown
My kindred and companions. Me
alone
It moveth not, but is by me con-
trolled.
I can remember when the Medici
Were driven from Florence ; longer
still ago
The final wars of Ghibelline and
Guelf.
Florence adorns me with her jewelry ;
And when I think that Michael An-
gelo
Hath leaned on me, I glory in my-
self.

IL PONTE VECCHIO DI FI-
RENZE

GADDI mi fece ; il Ponte Vecchio sono ;
Cinquecent' anni già sull' Arno pi-
anto

Il piede, come il suo Michele Santo
 Piantò sul draco. Mentre ch' io
 ragiono
 Lo vedo torcere con flebil suono
 Le rilucenti scaglie. Ha questi af-
 franto
 Due volte i miei maggior. Me solo
 intanto
 Neppure muove, ed io non l' abban-
 dono.
 Io mi rammento quando fur cacciati
 I Medici; pur quando Ghibellino
 E Guelfo fecer pace mi rammento.
 Fiorenza i suoi gioielli m' ha prestati;
 E quando penso ch' Agnolo il divino
 Su me posava, insuperbir mi sento.

NATURE

As a fond mother, when the day is o'er,
 Leads by the hand her little child to
 bed,
 Half willing, half reluctant to be led,
 And leave his broken playthings on
 the floor,
 Still gazing at them through the open
 door,
 Nor wholly reassured and comforted
 By promises of others in their stead,
 Which, though more splendid, may
 not please him more;
 So Nature deals with us, and takes
 away
 Our playthings one by one, and by
 the hand
 Leads us to rest so gently, that we
 go
 Scarce knowing if we wish to go or
 stay,
 Being too full of sleep to understand
 How far the unknown transcends
 the what we know.

IN THE CHURCHYARD AT TARRYTOWN

HERE lies the gentle humorist, who
 died
 In the bright Indian Summer of his
 fame!
 A simple stone, with but a date and
 name,
 Marks his secluded resting-place be-
 side

The river that he loved and glorified.
 Here in the autumn of his days he
 came,
 But the dry leaves of life were all
 afame
 With tints that brightened and were
 multiplied.
 How sweet a life was his; how sweet
 a death!
 Living, to wing with mirth the
 weary hours,
 Or with romantic tales the heart to
 cheer;
 Dying, to leave a memory like the
 breath
 Of summers full of sunshine and of
 showers,
 A grief and gladness in the atmos-
 phere.

ELIOT'S OAK

THOU ancient oak! whose myriad
 leaves are loud
 With sounds of unintelligible
 speech,
 Sounds as of surges on a shingly
 beach,
 Or multitudinous murmurs of a
 crowd;
 With some mysterious gift of tongues
 endowed,
 Thou speakest a different dialect to
 each;
 To me a language that no man can
 teach,
 Of a lost race, long vanished like a
 cloud.
 For underneath thy shade, in days
 remote,
 Seated like Abraham at eventide
 Beneath the oaks of Mamre, the un-
 known
 Apostle of the Indians, Eliot, wrote
 His Bible in a language that hath
 died
 And is forgotten, save by thee alone.

THE DESCENT OF THE MUSES

NINE sisters, beautiful in form and
 face,
 Came from their convent on the
 shining heights

Or Pierus, the mountain of delights,
 To dwell among the people at its
 base.
 Then seemed the world to change.
 All time and space,
 Splendor of cloudless days and
 starry nights,
 And men and manners, and all
 sounds and sights,
 Had a new meaning, a diviner grace.
 Proud were these sisters, but were not
 too proud
 To teach in schools of little country
 towns
 Science and song, and all the arts
 that please;
 So that while housewives span, and
 farmers ploughed,
 Their comely daughters, clad in
 homespun gowns,
 Learned the sweet songs of the Pier-
 ides.

VENICE

White swan of cities, slumbering in
 thy nest
 So wonderfully built among the
 reeds
 Of the lagoon, that fences thee and
 feeds,
 As sayeth thy old historian and thy
 guest!
 White water-lily, cradled and caressed
 By ocean streams, and from the silt
 and weeds
 Lifting thy golden filaments and
 seeds,
 Thy sun-illuminated spires, thy crown
 and crest!
 White phantom city, whose untrodden
 streets
 Are rivers, and whose pavements are
 the shifting
 Shadows of palaces and strips of sky;
 I wait to see thee vanish like the fleets
 Seen in mirage, or towers of cloud
 uplifting
 In air their unsubstantial masonry.

THE POETS

O YE dead Poets, who are living still
 Immortal in your verse, though life
 be fled,

And ye, O living Poets, who are
 dead
 Though ye are living, if neglect can
 kill,
 Tell me if in the darkest hours of ill,
 With drops of anguish falling fast
 and red
 From the sharp crown of thorns
 upon your head,
 Ye were not glad your errand to ful-
 fill?
 Yes; for the gift and ministry of Song
 Have something in them so divinely
 sweet,
 It can assuage the bitterness of
 wrong;
 Not in the clamor of the crowded
 street,
 Not in the shouts and plaudits of the
 throng,
 But in ourselves, are triumph and
 defeat.

PARKER CLEVELAND

WRITTEN ON REVISITING BRUNSWICK
 IN THE SUMMER OF 1875

Among the many lives that I have
 known,
 None I remember more serene and
 sweet,
 More rounded in itself and more
 complete,
 Than his, who lies beneath this
 funeral stone.
 These pines, that murmur in low
 monotone,
 These walks frequented by scholas-
 tic feet,
 Were all his world; but in this calm
 retreat
 For him the Teacher's chair became
 a throne.
 With fond affection memory loves to
 dwell
 On the old days, when his example
 made
 A pastime of the toil of tongue and
 pen;
 And now, amid the groves he loved so
 well
 That naught could lure him from
 their grateful shade,
 He sleeps, but wakes elsewhere, for
 God hath said, Amen!

THE HARVEST MOON

It is the Harvest Moon! On gilded
 vanes
 And roofs of villages, on woodland
 crests
 And their aerial neighborhoods of
 nests
 Deserted, on the curtained window-
 panes
 Of rooms where children sleep, on
 country lanes
 And harvest-fields, its mystic splen-
 dor rests!
 Gone are the birds that were our
 summer guests;
 With the last sheaves return the
 laboring wains!
 All things are symbols: the external
 shows
 Of Nature have their image in the
 mind,
 As flowers and fruits and falling of
 the leaves;
 The song-birds leave us at the sum-
 mer's close,
 Only the empty nests are left be-
 hind,
 And pipings of the quail among the
 sheaves.

TO THE RIVER RHONE

THOU Royal River, born of sun and
 shower
 In chambers purple with the Alpine
 glow,
 Wrapped in the spotless ermine of
 the snow
 And rocked by tempests!—at the
 appointed hour
 Forth, like a steel-clad horseman from
 a tower,
 With clang and clink of harness dost
 thou go
 To meet thy vassal torrents, that
 below
 Rush to receive thee and obey thy
 power.
 And now thou movest in triumphal
 march,
 A king among the rivers! On thy
 way
 A hundred towns await and welcome
 thee;

Bridges uplift for thee the stately arch,
 Vineyards encircle thee with gar-
 lands gay,
 And fleets attend thy progress to
 the sea!

THE THREE SILENCES OF
MOLINOS

TO JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

THREE Silences there are: the first of
 speech,
 The second of desire, the third of
 thought;
 This is the lore a Spanish monk, dis-
 traught
 With dreams and visions, was the
 first to teach.
 These Silences, commingling each
 with each,
 Made up the perfect Silence that
 he sought
 And prayed for, and wherein at
 times he caught
 Mysterious sounds from realms be-
 yond our reach.
 O thou, whose daily life anticipates
 The life to come, and in whose
 thought and word
 The spiritual world preponderates,
 Hermit of Amesbury! thou too hast
 heard
 Voices and melodies from beyond
 the gates,
 And speakest only when thy soul is
 stirred!

THE TWO RIVERS

I

SLOWLY the hour-hand of the clock
 moves round;
 So slowly that no human eye hath
 power
 To see it move! Slowly in shine or
 shower
 The painted ship above it, home-
 ward bound,
 Sails, but seems motionless, as if
 aground;
 Yet both arrive at last; and in his
 tower

The slumberous watchman wakes
and strikes the hour,
A mellow, measured, melancholy
sound.
Midnight! the outpost of advancing
day!
The frontier town and citadel of
night!
The watershed of Time, from which
the streams
Of Yesterday and To-morrow take
their way,
One to the land of promise and of
light,
One to the land of darkness and of
dreams!

II

O River of Yesterday, with current
swift
Through chasms descending, and
soon lost to sight,
I do not care to follow in their flight
The faded leaves, that on thy bosom
drift!
O River of To-morrow, I uplift
Mine eyes, and thee I follow, as the
night
Wanes into morning, and the dawn-
ing light
Broadens, and all the shadows fade
and shift!
I follow, follow, where thy waters run
Through unfrequented, unfamiliar
fields,
Fragrant with flowers and musical
with song;
Still follow, follow; sure to meet the
sun,
And confident, that what the future
yields
Will be the right, unless myself be
wrong.

III

Yet not in vain, O River of Yesterday,
Through chasms of darkness to the
deep descending,
I heard thee sobbing in the rain,
and blending
Thy voice with other voices far
away.
I called to thee, and yet thou wouldst
not stay,
But turbulent, and with thyself con-
tending,

And torrent-like thy force on peb-
bles spending,
Thou wouldst not listen to a poet's
lay.
Thoughts, like a loud and sudden
rush of wings,
Regrets and recollections of things
past,
With hints and prophecies of things
to be,
And inspirations, which, could they
be things,
And stay with us, and we could
hold them fast,
Were our good angels, — these I
owe to thee.

IV

And thou, O River of To-morrow,
flowing
Between thy narrow adamantine
walls,
But beautiful, and white with wa-
terfalls,
And wreaths of mist, like hands the
pathway showing;
I hear the trumpets of the morning
blowing,
I hear thy mighty voice, that calls
and calls,
And see, as Ossian saw in Morven's
halls,
Mysterious phantoms, coming, beck-
oning, going!
It is the mystery of the unknown
That fascinates us; we are children
still,
Wayward and wistful; with one
hand we cling
To the familiar things we call our own.
And with the other, resolute of
will,
Grove in the dark for what the day
will bring.

BOSTON

St. BOTOLPH's Town! Hither across
the plains
And fens of Lincolnshire, in garb
austere,
There came a Saxon monk, and
founded here
A Priory, pillaged by marauding
Danes.

St. Botolph's Church, Boston, England.

So that thereof no vestige now re-
 mains ;
 Only a name, that, spoken loud and
 clear,
 And echoed in another hemisphere,
 Survives the sculptured walls and
 painted panes.
 St. Botolph's Town! Far over leagues
 of land
 And leagues of sea looks forth its
 noble tower,
 And far around the chiming bells
 are heard ;
 So may that sacred name forever stand
 A landmark, and a symbol of the
 power
 That lies concentrated in a single word.

ST. JOHN'S, CAMBRIDGE

I STAND beneath the tree, whose
 branches shade
 Thy western window, Chapel of St.
 John!

And hear its leaves repeat their ben-
 ison
 On him, whose hand thy stones me-
 morial laid ;
 Then I remember one of whom was
 said
 In the world's darkest hour, " Be-
 hold thy son !"
 And see him living still, and wan-
 dering on
 And waiting for the advent long
 delayed.
 Not only tongues of the apostles
 teach
 Lessons of love and light, but these
 expanding
 And sheltering boughs with all
 their leaves implore,
 And say in language clear as human
 speech,
 " The peace of God, that passeth
 understanding,
 Be and abide with you forever-
 more !"

MOODS

OH that a Song would sing itself to me
 Out of the heart of Nature, or the
 heart
 Of man, the child of Nature, not of
 Art,
 Fresh as the morning, salt as the
 salt sea,
 With just enough of bitterness to be
 A medicine to this sluggish mood,
 and start
 The life-blood in my veins, and so
 impart
 Healing and help in this dull leth-
 argy!
 Alas! not always doth the breath of
 song
 Breathe on us. It is like the wind
 that bloweth
 At its own will, not ours, nor tarri-
 eth long;
 We hear the sound thereof, but no
 man knoweth
 From whence it comes, so sudden
 and swift and strong,
 Nor whither in its wayward course
 it goeth.

WOODSTOCK PARK

HERE in a little rustic hermitage
 Alfred the Saxon King, Alfred the
 Great,
 Postponed the cares of king-craft to
 translate
 The Consolations of the Roman sage.
 Here Geoffrey Chaucer in his ripe old
 age
 Wrote the unrivalled Tales, which
 soon or late
 The venturous hand that strives to
 imitate
 Vanquished must fall on the unfin-
 ished page.
 Two kings were they, who ruled by
 right divine,
 And both supreme; one in the realm
 of Truth,
 One in the realm of Fiction and of
 Song.
 What prince hereditary of their line,
 Uprising in the strength and flush of
 youth,
 Their glory shall inherit and prolong?

THE FOUR PRINCESSES AT
WILNA

A PHOTOGRAPH

SWEET faces, that from pictured case-
 ments lean
 As from a castle window, looking
 down
 On some gay pageant passing
 through a town,
 Yourselves the fairest figures in the
 scene;
 With what a gentle grace, with what
 serene
 Unconsciousness ye wear the triple
 crown
 Of youth and beauty and the fair
 renown
 Of a great name, that ne'er hath
 tarnished been!
 From your soft eyes, so innocent and
 sweet,
 Four spirits, sweet and innocent as
 they,
 Gaze on the world below, the sky
 above;
 Hark! there is some one singing in
 the street;
 "Faith, Hope, and Love! these
 three," he seems to say;
 "These three; and greatest of the
 three is Love."

HOLIDAYS

THE holiest of all holidays are those
 Kept by ourselves in silence and
 apart;
 The secret anniversaries of the
 heart,
 When the full river of feeling over-
 flows;—
 The happy days unclouded to their
 close;
 The sudden joys that out of dark-
 ness start
 As flames from ashes; swift desires
 that dart
 Like swallows singing down each
 wind that blows!
 White as the gleam of a receding sail,
 White as a cloud that floats and
 fades in air,
 White as the whitest lily on a
 stream,

These tender memories are ; — a fairy
tale
Of some enchanted land we know
not where,
But lovely as a landscape in a dream.

WAPENTAKE

TO ALFRED TENNYSON

POET ! I come to touch thy lance with
mine ;
Not as a knight, who on the listed
field
Of tourney touched his adversary's
shield
In token of defiance, but in sign
Of homage to the mastery, which is
thine,
In English song ; nor will I keep
concealed,
And voiceless as a rivulet frost-con-
gealed,
My admiration for thy verse divine.
Not of the howling dervishes of song,
Who craze the brain with their de-
lirious dance,
Art thou, O sweet historian of the
heart !
Therefore to thee the laurel-leaves be-
long,
To thee our love and our allegiance,
For thy allegiance to the poet's art.

THE BROKEN OAR

ONCE upon Iceland's solitary strand
A poet wandered with his book and
pen,
Seeking some final word, some sweet
Amen,
Wherewith to close the volume in
his hand.
The billows rolled and plunged upon
the sand,
The circling sea-gulls swept beyond
his ken,

And from the parting cloud-rack
now and then
Flashed the red sunset over sea and
land.
Then by the billows at his feet was
tossed
A broken oar ; and carved thereon
he read :
" Oft was I weary, when I toiled at
thee ;"
And like a man, who findeth what
was lost,
He wrote the words, then lifted up
his head,
And flung his useless pen into the
sea.

THE CROSS OF SNOW

IN the long, sleepless watches of the
night,
A gentle face — the face of one long
dead —
Looks at me from the wall, where
round its head
The night-lamp casts a halo of pale
light.
Here in this room she died ; and soul
more white
Never through martyrdom of fire
was led
To its repose ; nor can in books be
read
The legend of a life more bene-
dight.
There is a mountain in the distant
West
That, sun-defying, in its deep ra-
vines
Displays a cross of snow upon its
side.
Such is the cross I wear upon my
breast
These eighteen years, through all
the changing scenes
And seasons, changeless since the
day she died.

Longfellow in his Study.

BIRDS OF PASSAGE

FLIGHT THE FOURTH

CHARLES SUMNER

GARLANDS upon his grave
And flowers upon his hearse,
And to the tender heart and brave
The tribute of this verse.

His was the troubled life,
The conflict and the pain,
The grief, the bitterness of strife
The honor without stain.

Like Winkelried, he took
Into his manly breast
The sheaf of hostile spears, and broke
A path for the oppressed.

Then from the fatal field
Upon a nation's heart
Borne like a warrior on his shield !-
So should the brave depart.

Death takes us by surprise,
And stays our hurrying feet;
The great design unfinished lies,
Our lives are incomplete.

But in the dark unknown
Perfect their circles seem,
Even as a bridge's arch of stone
Is rounded in the stream.

Alike are life and death,
When life in death survives,

And the uninterrupted breath
Inspires a thousand lives.

Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still travelling downward from the
sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.

So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

TRAVELS BY THE FIRESIDE

THE ceaseless rain is falling fast,
And yonder gilded vane,
Immovable for three days past,
Points to the misty main.

It drives me in upon myself
And to the fireside gleams,
To pleasant books that crowd my
shelf,
And still more pleasant dreams.

I read whatever bards have sung
Of lands beyond the sea,
And the bright days when I was
young
Come thronging back to me.

In fancy I can hear again
The Alpine torrent's roar,
The mule-bells on the hills of Spain,
The sea at Elsinore.

I see the convent's gleaming wall
Rise from its groves of pine,
And towers of old cathedrals tall,
And castles by the Rhine.

I journey on by park and spire,
Beneath centennial trees,
Through fields with poppies all on fire,
And gleams of distant seas.

I fear no more the dust and heat,
No more I feel fatigue,
While journeying with another's feet
O'er many a lengthening league.

Let others traverse sea and land,
And toil through various climes,

I turn the world round with my hand
Reading these poets' rhymes.

From them I learn whatever lies
Beneath each changing zone,
And see, when looking with their
eyes,
Better than with mine own.

CADENABBIA

LAKE OF COMO

No sound of wheels or hoof-beat
breaks

The silence of the summer day,
As by the loveliest of all lakes
I while the idle hours away.

I pace the leafy colonnade,
Where level branches of the plane
Above me weave a roof of shade
Impervious to the sun and rain.

At times a sudden rush of air
Flutters the lazy leaves o'erhead, 10
And gleams of sunshine toss and
flare
Like torches down the path I tread.

By Somariva's garden gate
I make the marble stairs my seat,
And hear the water, as I wait,
Lapping the steps beneath my feet.

The undulation sinks and swells
Along the stony parapets,
And far away the floating bells
Tinkle upon the fisher's nets. 20

Silent and slow, by tower and town
The freighted barges come and go,
Their pendent shadows gliding down
By town and tower submerged be-
low.

The hills sweep upward from the
shore,
With villas scattered one by one
Upon their wooded spurs, and lower
Bellaggio blazing in the sun.

And dimly seen, a tangled mass
Of walls and woods, of light and
shade, 30

Stands, beckoning up the Stelvio Pass,
Varenna with its white cascade.

I ask myself, Is this a dream?
Will it all vanish into air?
Is there a land of such supreme
And perfect beauty anywhere?

Sweet vision! Do not fade away:
Linger, until my heart shall take
Into itself the summer day,
And all the beauty of the lake; 40

The Land of Labor and the Land of
Rest,

Where mediæval towns are white on
all
The hillsides, and where every moun-
tain's crest
Is an Etrurian or a Roman wall.

There is Alagna, where Pope Boni-
face
Was dragged with contumely from
his throne; 10

"By Somariva's garden gate
I make the marble stairs my seat"

Linger, until upon my brain
Is stamped an image of the scene;
Then fade into the air again,
And be as if thou hadst not been.

MONTE CASSINO

TERRA DI LAVORO

BEAUTIFUL valley! through whose
verdant meads
Unheard the Garigliano glides
along;—
The Liris, nurse of rushes and of
reeds,
The river taciturn of classic song.

Sciarra Colonna, was that day's dis-
grace
The Pontiff's only, or in part thine
own?

There is Ceprano, where a renegade
Was each Apulian, as great Dante
saith,
When Manfred by his men-at-arms be-
trayed
Spurred on to Benevento and to
death.

There is Aquinum, the old Volscian
town,
Where Juvenal was born, whose
lurid light

Still hovers o'er his birthplace like the
crown
Of splendor seen o'er cities in the
night. 20

Doubled the splendor is, that in its
streets
The Angelic Doctor as a school-
boy played,
And dreamed perhaps the dreams,
that he repeats
In ponderous folios for scholastics
made.

And there, uplifted, like a passing
cloud
That pauses on a mountain summit
high,
Monte Cassino's convent rears its
proud
And venerable walls against the
sky.

Well I remember how on foot I
climbed
The stony pathway leading to its
gate ; 30
Above, the convent bells for vespers
chimed,
Below, the darkening town grew
desolate.

Well I remember the low arch and
dark,
The courtyard with its well, the
terrace wide,
From which, far down, the valley like
a park,
Veiled in the evening mists, was
dim descried.

The day was dying, and with feeble
hands
Caressed the mountain - tops ; the
vales between
Darkened ; the river in the meadow-
lands
Sheathed itself as a sword, and was
not seen. 40

The silence of the place was like a
sleep,
So full of rest it seemed ; each pass-
ing tread
Was a reverberation from the deep
Recesses of the ages that are dead.

For, more than thirteen centuries ago,
Benedict fleeing from the gates of
Rome,
A youth disgusted with its vice and
woe,
Sought in these mountain solitudes
a home.

He founded here his Convent and his
Rule
Of prayer and work, and counted
work as prayer ; 50
The pen became a clarion, and his
school
Flamed like a beacon in the mid-
night air.

What though Boccaccio, in his reck-
less way,
Mocking the lazy brotherhood, de-
plores
The illuminated manuscripts, that lay
Torn and neglected on the dusty
floors?

Boccaccio was a novelist, a child
Of fancy and of fiction at the best !
This the urbane librarian said, and
smiled
Incredulous, as at some idle jest. 60

Upon such themes as these, with one
young friar
I sat conversing late into the night,
Till in its cavernous chimney the
wood-fire
Had burnt its heart out like an an-
chorite.

And then translated, in my convent
cell,
Myself yet not myself, in dreams I
lay,
And, as a monk who hears the matin
bell,
Started from sleep ; — already it
was day.

From the high window I beheld the
scene
On which Saint Benedict so oft had
gazed, — 70
The mountains and the valley in the
sheen
Of the bright sun, — and stood as
one amazed.

Gray mists were rolling, rising, vanishing;
The woodlands glistened with their jewelled crowns;
Far off the mellow bells began to ring
For matins in the half-awakened towns.

The conflict of the Present and the Past,
The ideal and the actual in our life,
As on a field of battle held me fast,
Where this world and the next world were at strife. 80

For, as the valley from its sleep awoke,
I saw the iron horses of the steam
Toss to the morning air their plumes of smoke,
And woke, as one awaketh from a dream.

AMALFI

SWEET the memory is to me
Of a land beyond the sea,
Where the waves and mountains meet,

Where amid her mulberry-trees
Sits Amalfi in the heat,
Bathing ever her white feet
In the tideless summer seas.

In the middle of the town,
From its fountains in the hills, 9
Tumbling through the narrow gorge,
The Canneto rushes down,
Turns the great wheels of the mills,
Lifts the hammers of the forge.

'Tis a stairway, not a street,
That ascends the deep ravine,
Where the torrent leaps between
Rocky walls that almost meet.
Toiling up from stair to stair
Peasant girls their burdens bear;
Sunburnt daughters of the soil, 20
Stately figures tall and straight,
What inexorable fate
Dooms them to this life of toil?

Lord of vineyards and of lands,
Far above the convent stands.
On its terraced walk aloof
Leans a monk with folded hands.
Placid, satisfied, serene,
Looking down upon the scene
Over wall and red tiled roof ; 30

"Lord of vineyards and of lands,
Far above the convent stands"

Wondering unto what good end
 All this toil and traffic tend,
 And why all men cannot be
 Free from care and free from pain,
 And the sordid love of gain,
 And as indolent as he.

Where are now the freighted barks
 From the marts of east and west ?
 Where the knights in iron sarks
 Journeying to the Holy Land, 40
 Glove of steel upon the hand,
 Cross of crimson on the breast ?
 Where the pomp of camp and court ?
 Where the pilgrims with their
 prayers?

Where the merchants with their wares,
 And their gallant brigantines
 Sailing safely into port
 Chased by corsair Algerines ?

Vanished like a fleet of cloud,
 Like a passing trumpet-blast, 50
 Are those splendors of the past,
 And the commerce and the crowd !
 Fathoms deep beneath the seas
 Lie the ancient wharves and quays,
 Swallowed by the engulfing waves ;
 Silent streets and vacant halls,
 Ruined roofs and towers and walls ;
 Hidden from all mortal eyes
 Deep the sunken city lies :
 Even cities have their graves ! 60

This is an enchanted land !
 Round the headlands far away
 Sweeps the blue Salernian bay
 With its sickle of white sand :
 Further still and furthestmost
 On the dim discovered coast
 Pæstum with its ruins lies,
 And its roses all in bloom
 Seem to tinge the fatal skies
 Of that lonely land of doom. 70

On his terrace, high in air,
 Nothing doth the good monk care
 For such worldly themes as these.
 From the garden just below
 Little puffs of perfume blow,
 And a sound is in his ears
 Of the murmur of the bees
 In the shining chestnut trees ;
 Nothing else he heeds or hears.
 All the landscape seems to swoon 80
 In the happy afternoon ;

Slowly o'er his senses creep
 The encroaching waves of sleep,
 And he sinks as sank the town,
 Unresisting, fathoms down,
 Into caverns cool and deep !

Walled about with drifts of snow,
 Hearing the fierce north-wind blow,
 Seeing all the landscape white
 And the river cased in ice, 90
 Comes this memory of delight,
 Comes this vision unto me
 Of a long-lost Paradise
 In the land beyond the sea.

THE SERMON OF ST. FRANCIS

Up soared the lark into the air,
 A shaft of song, a wingèd prayer,
 As if a soul released from pain
 Were flying back to heaven again.

St. Francis heard : it was to him
 An emblem of the Seraphim ;
 The upward motion of the fire,
 The light, the heat, the heart's desire.

Around Assisi's convent gate
 The birds, God's poor who cannot wait,
 From moor and mere and darksome
 wood
 Come flocking for their dole of food.

" O brother birds," St. Francis said,
 " Ye come to me and ask for bread,
 But not with bread alone to-day
 Shall ye be fed and sent away.

" Ye shall be fed, ye happy birds,
 With manna of celestial words ;
 Not mine, though mine they seem to
 be,
 Not mine, though they be spoken
 through me.

" Oh, doubly are ye bound to praise
 The great Creator in your lays ;
 He giveth you your plumes of down,
 Your crimson hoods, your cloaks of
 brown.

" He giveth you your wings to fly
 And breathe a purer air on high,
 And careth for you everywhere,
 Who for yourselves so little care !"

With flutter of swift wings and songs
Together rose the feathered throngs,
And singing scattered far apart;
Deep peace was in St. Francis' heart.

Blows through the city gate,
And covers me with dust
From the wheels of the august
Justinian the Great.

"I still
Am Belisarius"

He knew not if the brotherhood
His homily had understood;
He only knew that to one ear
The meaning of his words was clear.

BELISARIUS

I AM poor and old and blind;
The sun burns me, and the wind

It was for him I chased
The Persians o'er wild and waste,
As General of the East;
Night after night I lay
In their camps of yesterday;
Their forage was my feast.

For him, with sails of red,
And torches at mast-head,
Piloting the great fleet,

I swept the Afric coasts
And scattered the Vandal hosts,
Like dust in a windy street.

For him I won again
The Ausonian realm and reign, 20
Rome and Parthenope;
And all the land was mine
From the summits of Apennine
To the shores of either sea.

For him, in my feeble age,
I dared the battle's rage,
To save Byzantium's state,
When the tents of Zabergan
Like snow-drifts overran
The road to the Golden Gate. 30

And for this, for this, behold!
Infirm and blind and old,
With gray, uncovered head,
Beneath the very arch
Of my triumphal march,
I stand and beg my bread!

Methinks I still can hear,
Sounding distinct and near,
The Vandal monarch's cry,
As, captive and disgraced, 40
With majestic step he paced, —
"All, all is Vanity!"

Ah! vainest of all things
Is the gratitude of kings;
The plaudits of the crowd
Are but the clatter of feet
At midnight in the street,
Hollow and restless and loud.

But the bitterest disgrace
Is to see forever the face 50
Of the Monk of Ephesus!
The unconquerable will
This, too, can bear; — I still
Am Belisarius.

SONGO RIVER

NOWHERE such a devious stream,
Save in fancy or in dream,

Winding slow through bush and
brake,
Links together lake and lake.

Walled with woods or sandy shelf,
Ever doubling on itself
Flows the stream, so still and slow
That it hardly seems to flow.

Never errant knight of old,
Lost in woodland or on wold, 10
Such a winding path pursued
Through the sylvan solitude.

Never school-boy, in his quest
After hazel-nut or nest,
Through the forest in and out
Wandered loitering thus about.

In the mirror of its tide
Tangled thickets on each side
Hang inverted, and between
Floating cloud or sky serene. 20

Swift or swallow on the wing
Seems the only living thing,
Or the loon, that laughs and flies
Down to those reflected skies.

Silent stream! thy Indian name
Unfamiliar is to fame;
For thou hidest here alone,
Well content to be unknown. 40

But thy tranquil waters teach
Wisdom deep as human speech, 30
Moving without haste or noise
In unbroken equipoise.

Though thou turnest no busy mill,
And art ever calm and still,
Even thy silence seems to say
To the traveller on his way: — 50

"Traveller, hurrying from the heat
Of the city, stay thy feet!
Rest awhile, nor longer waste
Life with inconsiderate haste! 40

"Be not like a stream that brawls
Loud with shallow waterfalls,
But in quiet self-control
Link together soul and soul."

"Turn, turn, my wheel ! Turn round and round "

KÉRAMOS

*Turn, turn, my wheel ! Turn round
and round
Without a pause, without a sound :
So spins the flying world away !
This clay, well mixed with marl and
sand,
Follows the motion of my hand ;
For some must follow, and some com-
mand,
Though all are made of clay !*

Thus sang the Potter at his task
Beneath the blossoming hawthorn-
tree,
While o'er his features, like a mask, 10
The quilted sunshine and leaf-shade

Moved, as the boughs above him
swayed,
And clothed him, till he seemed to be
A figure woven in tapestry,
So sumptuously was he arrayed
In that magnificent attire
Of sable tissue flaked with fire.
Like a magician he appeared,
A conjurer without book or beard ;
And while he plied his magic art — 20
For it was magical to me —
I stood in silence and apart,
And wondered more and more to see
That shapeless, lifeless mass of clay
Rise up to meet the master's hand,
And now contract and now expand,

And even his slightest touch obey ;
While ever in a thoughtful mood
He sang his ditty, and at times
Whistled a tune between the rhymes,
As a melodious interlude. 31

*Turn, turn, my wheel! All things
must change
To something new, to something
strange ;
Nothing that is can pause or stay ;
The moon will wax, the moon will wane,
The mist and cloud will turn to rain,
The rain to mist and cloud again,
To-morrow be to-day.*

Thus still the Potter sang, and still,
By some unconscious act of will, 40
The melody and even the words
Were intermingled with my thought,
As bits of colored thread are caught
And woven into nests of birds.
And thus to regions far remote,
Beyond the ocean's vast expanse,
This wizard in the motley coat
Transported me on wings of song,
And by the northern shores of France
Bore me with restless speed along. 50

What land is this that seems to be
A mingling of the land and sea ?
This land of sluices, dikes, and
dunes ?

This water-net, that tessellates
The landscape ? this unending maze
Of gardens, through whose latticed
gates
The imprisoned pinks and tulips
gaze ;

Where in long summer afternoons
The sunshine, softened by the haze,
Comes streaming down as through a
screen ; 60

Where over fields and pastures green
The painted ships float high in air,
And over all and everywhere
The sails of windmills sink and soar
Like wings of sea-gulls on the shore ?

What land is this ? Yon pretty town
Is Delft, with all its wares displayed ;
The pride, the market-place, the
crown

And centre of the Potter's trade.
See ! every house and room is bright
With glimmers of reflected light 71

From plates that on the dresser shine ;
Flagons to foam with Flemish beer,
Or sparkle with the Rhenish wine,
And pilgrim flasks with fleurs-de-lis,
And ships upon a rolling sea,
And tankards pewter topped, and
queer

With comic mask and musketeer !
Each hospitable chimney smiles
A welcome from its painted tiles ; 80
The parlor walls, the chamber floors,
The stairways and the corridors,
The borders of the garden walks,
Are beautiful with fadeless flowers,
That never droop in winds or showers,
And never wither on their stalks.

*Turn, turn, my wheel! All life is
brief ;
What now is bud will soon be leaf,
What now is leaf will soon decay ;
The wind blows east, the wind blows
west ; 90
The blue eggs in the robin's nest
Will soon have wings and beak and
breast,
And flutter and fly away.*

Now southward through the air I
glide,
The song my only pursuivant,
And see across the landscape wide
The blue Charente, upon whose tide
The belfries and the spires of Saintes
Ripple and rock from side to side,
As, when an earthquake rends its
walls, 100
A crumbling city reels and falls.

Who is it in the suburbs here,
This Potter, working with such cheer,
In this mean house, this mean attire,
His manly features bronzed with fire,
Whose figulines and rustic wares
Scarce find him bread from day to
day ?

This madman, as the people say,
Who breaks his tables and his chairs
To feed his furnace fires, nor cares 110
Who goes unfed if they are fed,
Nor who may live if they are dead ?
This alchemist with hollow cheeks
And sunken, searching eyes, who
seeks,

By mingled earths and ores combined
With potency of fire, to find

Some new enamel, hard and bright,
His dream, his passion, his delight?

O Pallas! within thy breast
Burned the hot fever of unrest; 120
Thine was the prophet's vision, thine
The exultation, the divine
Insanity of noble minds,
That never falters nor abates,
But labors and endures and waits,
Till all that it foresees it finds,
Or what it cannot find creates!

*Turn, turn, my wheel! This earthen
jar*

*A touch can make, a touch can mar;
And shall it to the Potter say, 130
What makest thou? Thou hast no
hand?*

*As men who think to understand
A world by their Creator planned,
Who wiser is than they.*

Still guided by the dreamy song,
As in a trance I float along

Above the Pyrenean chain,
Above the fields and farms of Spain,
Above the bright Majorcan isle
That lends its softened name to art, —
A spot, a dot upon the chart, 141
Whose little towns, red-roofed with
tile,
Are ruby-lustred with the light
Of blazing furnaces by night,
And crowned by day with wreaths of
smoke.

Then eastward, wafted in my flight:
On my enchanter's magic cloak,
I sail across the Tyrrhene Sea
Into the land of Italy,
And o'er the windy Apennines, 150
Mantled and musical with pines.

The palaces, the princely halls,
The doors of houses and the walls
Of churches and of belfry towers,
Cloister and castle, street and mart,
Are garlanded and gay with flow
ers
That blossom in the fields of art.

"What land is this? You pretty town
Is Delft"

Here Gubbio's workshops gleam and
glow
With brilliant, iridescent dyes, ¹⁵⁹
The dazzling whiteness of the snow,
The cobalt blue of summer skies;

About some landscape, shaded brown,
With olive tints on rock and town.

Behold this cup within whose bowl,
Upon a ground of deepest blue ¹⁸¹

"Cana, the Beautiful!"

And vase and scutcheon, cup and
plate,
In perfect finish emulate
Faenza, Florence, Pesaro.

Forth from Urbino's gate there came
A youth with the angelic name
Of Raphael, in form and face
Himself angelic, and divine
In arts of color and design.
From him Francesco Xanto caught ¹⁷⁰
Something of his transcendent grace,
And into fictile fabrics wrought
Suggestions of the master's thought.
Nor less Maestro Giorgio shines
With madre-perl and golden lines
Of arabesques, and interweaves
His birds and fruits and flowers and
leaves

With yellow-lusted stars o'erlaid,
Colors of every tint and hue
Mingle in one harmonious whole!
With large blue eyes and steadfast
gaze,

Her yellow hair in net and braid,
Necklace and ear-rings all ablaze
With golden lustre o'er the glaze,
A woman's portrait; on the scroll,
Cana, the Beautiful! A name ¹⁹⁰
Forgotten save for such brief fame
As this memorial can bestow, —
A gift some lover long ago
Gave with his heart to this fair dame.

A nobler title to renown
Is thine, O pleasant Tuscan town,
Seated beside the Arno's stream;
For Luca della Robbia there

Created forms so wondrous fair, 199
 They made thy sovereignty supreme.
 These choristers with lips of stone,
 Whose music is not heard, but seen,
 Still chant, as from their organ-screen,
 Their Maker's praise ; nor these alone,
 But the more fragile forms of clay,
 Hardly less beautiful than they,
 These saints and angels that adorn
 The walls of hospitals, and tell
 The story of good deeds so well
 That poverty seems less forlorn, 210
 And life more like a holiday.

Here in this old neglected church,
 That long eludes the traveller's search,
 Lies the dead bishop on his tomb ;
 Earth upon earth he slumbering lies,
 Life-like and death-like in the gloom ;
 Garlands of fruit and flowers in bloom
 And foliage deck his resting place ;
 A shadow in the sightless eyes,
 A pallor on the patient face, 220
 Made perfect by the furnace heat ;
 All earthly passions and desires
 Burnt out by purgatorial fires ;
 Seeming to say, " Our years are fleet,
 And to the weary death is sweet."

But the most wonderful of all
 The ornaments on tomb or wall
 That grace the fair Ausonian shores
 Are those the faithful earth restores,
 Near some Apulian town concealed, 230
 In vineyard or in harvest field, —
 Vases and urns and bas-reliefs,
 Memorials of forgotten griefs,
 Or records of heroic deeds
 Of demigods and mighty chiefs:
 Figures that almost move and speak,
 And, buried amid mould and weeds,
 Still in their attitudes attest
 The presence of the graceful Greek, —
 Achilles in his armor dressed, 240
 Alcides with the Cretan bull,
 And Aphrodite with her boy,
 Or lovely Helena of Troy,
 Still living and still beautiful.

*Turn, turn, my wheel ! 'Tis nature's
 plan*

*The child should grow into the man,
 The man grow wrinkled, old, and
 gray ;*

*In youth the heart exults and sings,
 The pulses leap, the feet have wings ; 249*

*In age the cricket chirps, and brings
 The harvest-home of day.*

And now the winds that southward
 blow,
 And cool the hot Sicilian isle,
 Bear me away. I see below
 The long line of the Libyan Nile,
 Flooding and feeding the parched
 lands

With annual ebb and overflow,
 A fallen palm whose branches lie
 Beneath the Abyssinian sky,
 Whose roots are in Egyptian sands. 260
 On either bank huge water-wheels,
 Belted with jars and dripping weeds,
 Send forth their melancholy moans,
 As if, in their gray mantles hid,
 Dead anchorites of the Thebaid
 Knelt on the shore and told their beads,
 Beating their breasts with loud appeals
 And penitential tears and groans.

This city, walled and thickly set 269
 With glittering mosque and minaret,
 Is Cairo, in whose gay bazaars
 The dreaming traveller first inhales
 The perfume of Arabian gales,
 And sees the fabulous earthen jars,
 Huge as were those wherein the maid
 Morgiana found the Forty Thieves
 Concealed in midnight ambuscade ;
 And seeing, more than half believes
 The fascinating tales that run
 Through all the Thousand Nights and
 One, 280
 Told by the fair Scheherezade.

More strange and wonderful than these
 Are the Egyptian deities,
 Ammon, and Emeth, and the grand
 Osiris, holding in his hand
 The lotus ; Isis, crowned and veiled ;
 The sacred Ibis, and the Sphinx ;
 Bracelets with blue enamelled links ;
 The Scarabee in emerald mailed,
 Or spreading wide his funeral wings ;
 Lamps that perchance their night-
 watch kept 291

O'er Cleopatra while she slept, —
 All plundered from the tombs of kings.

*Turn, turn, my wheel ! The human
 race,*

*Of every tongue, of every place,
 Caucasian, Coptic, or Malay,*

*All that inhabit this great earth,
Whatever be their rank or worth,
Are kindred and allied by birth,
And made of the same clay.* 300

O'er desert sands, o'er gulf and bay,
O'er Ganges and o'er Himalay,
Bird-like I fly, and flying sing,
To flowery kingdoms of Cathay,
And bird-like poise on balanced wing
Above the town of King-te-tching,
A burning town, or seeming so, —
Three thousand furnaces that glow
Incessantly, and fill the air 309
With smoke uprising, gyre on gyre
And painted by the lurid glare,
Of jets and flashes of red fire.

As leaves that in the autumn fall,
Spotted and veined with various hues,
Are swept along the avenues,
And lie in heaps by hedge and wall,
So from this grove of chimneys whirled
To all the markets of the world,

These porcelain leaves are wafted on,
Light yellow leaves with spots and
stains 320

Of violet and of crimson dye,
Or tender azure of a sky
Just washed by gentle April rains,
And beautiful with celadon.

Nor less the coarser household wares,
The willow pattern, that we knew
In childhood, with its bridge of blue
Leading to unknown thoroughfares ;
The solitary man who stares
At the white river flowing through 330
Its arches, the fantastic trees
And wild perspective of the view ;
And intermingled among these
The tiles that in our nurseries
Filled us with wonder and delight,
Or haunted us in dreams at night.

And yonder by Nankin, behold !
The Tower of Porcelain, strange and
old,

Uplifting to the astonished skies
 Its ninefold painted balconies, 340
 With balustrades of twining leaves,
 And roofs of tile, beneath whose eaves
 Hang porcelain bells that all the time
 Ring with a soft, melodious chime ;
 While the whole fabric is ablaze
 With varied tints, all fused in one
 Great mass of color, like a maze
 Of flowers illumined by the sun.

*Turn, turn, my wheel ! What is begun
 At daybreak must at dark be done,
 To-morrow will be another day ;
 To-morrow the hot furnace flame
 Will search the heart and try the frame,
 And stamp with honor or with shame
 These vessels made of clay.*

Cradled and rocked in Eastern seas,
 The islands of the Japanese
 Beneath me lie ; o'er lake and plain
 The stork, the heron, and the crane
 Through the clear realms of azure
 drift, 360

And on the hillside I can see
 The villages of Imari,
 Whose thronged and flaming work-
 shops lift
 Their twisted columns of smoke on
 high,
 Cloud cloisters that in ruins lie.
 With sunshine streaming through each
 rift,
 And broken arches of blue sky.

All the bright flowers that fill the
 land,
 Ripple of waves on rock or sand,
 The snow on Fusi-yama's cone, 370
 The midnight heaven so thickly sown
 With constellations of bright stars,
 The leaves that rustle, the reeds that
 make
 A whisper by each stream and lake,
 The saffron dawn, the sunset red,
 Are painted on these lovely jars ;
 Again the skylark sings, again

The stork, the heron, and the crane
 Float through the azure overhead,
 The counterfeit and counterpart 380
 Of Nature reproduced in Art.

Art is the child of Nature ; yes,
 Her darling child, in whom we trace
 The features of the mother's face,
 Her aspect and her attitude ;
 All her majestic loveliness
 Chastened and softened and subdued
 Into a more attractive grace,
 And with a human sense imbued.

He is the greatest artist, then, 390
 Whether of pencil or of pen,
 Who follows Nature. Never man,
 As artist or as artisan.
 Pursuing his own fantasies,
 Can touch the human heart, or please,
 Or satisfy our nobler needs,
 As he who sets his willing feet 397
 In Nature's footprints, light and fleet,
 And follows fearless where she leads.

Thus mused I on that morn in May,
 Wrapped in my visions like the Scer,
 Whose eyes behold not what is near,
 But only what is far away,
 When, suddenly sounding peal on pea'
 The church-bell from the neighboring
 town

Proclaimed the welcome hour of noon.
 The Potter heard, and stopped his
 wheel,

His apron on the grass threw down,
 Whistled his quiet little tune,
 Not overloud nor overlong, 410
 And ended thus his simple song :

*Stop, stop, my wheel ! Too soon, too
 soon*

*The noon will be the afternoon,
 Too soon to-day be yesterday ;
 Behind us in our path we cast
 The broken potsherds of the past,
 And all are ground to dust at last,
 And trodden into clay !*

Elmwood

BIRDS OF PASSAGE

FLIGHT THE FIFTH

THE HERONS OF ELMWOOD

WARM and still is the summer night,
As here by the river's brink I wander;
White overhead are the stars, and
white
The glimmering lamps on the hill-
side yonder.

Silent are all the sounds of day;
Nothing I hear but the chirp of
crickets,
And the cry of the herons winging
their way
O'er the poet's house in the Elm-
wood thickets.

Call to him, herons, as slowly you
pass

To your roosts in the haunts of the
exiled thrushes,
Sing him the song of the green mo-
rass,
And the tides that water the reeds
and rushes.

Sing him the mystical Song of the
Hern,
And the secret that baffles our ut-
most seeking;
For only a sound of lament we dis-
cern,
And cannot interpret the words you
are speaking.

Sing of the air, and the wild delight
Of wings that uplift and winds that
uphold you,
The joy of freedom, the rapture of
flight
Through the drift of the floating
mists that infold you;

Of the landscape lying so far below,
With its towns and rivers and des-
ert places;
And the splendor of light above, and
the glow
Of the limitless, blue, ethereal
spaces.

Ask him if songs of the Troubadours,
Or of Minnesingers, in old black-
letter,
Sound in his ears more sweet than
yours,
And if yours are not sweeter and
wilder and better.

Sing to him, say to him, here at his
gate,
Where the boughs of the stately
elms are meeting,
Some one hath lingered to meditate,
And send him unseen this friendly
greeting;

That many another hath done the
same,
Though not by a sound was the si-
lence broken;
The surest pledge of a deathless name
Is the silent homage of thoughts un-
spoken.

A DUTCH PICTURE

SIMON DANZ has come home again,
From cruising about with his buc-
caneers;
He has singed the beard of the King
of Spain,
And carried away the Dean of Jaen
And sold him in Algiers.

In his house by the Maese, with its
roof of tiles,
And weathercocks flying aloft in air,
There are silver tankards of antique
styles,

Plunder of convent and castle, and
piles
Of carpets rich and rare. 10

In his tulip-garden there by the town,
Overlooking the sluggish stream,
With his Moorish cap and dressing
gown,
The old sea-captain, hale and brown,
Walks in a waking dream.

A smile in his gray mustachio lurks
Whenever he thinks of the King of
Spain,
And the listed tulips look like Turks,
And the silent gardener as he works
Is changed to the Dean of Jaen. 20

The windmills on the outermost
Verge of the landscape in the haze,
To him are towers on the Spanish
coast,
With whiskered sentinels at their
post,
Though this is the river Maese.

But when the winter rains begin,
He sits and smokes by the blazing
brands,
And old seafaring men come in,
Goat-bearded, gray, and with double
chin,
And rings upon their hands. 30

They sit there in the shadow and
shine
Of the flickering fire of the winter
night;
Figures in color and design
Like those by Rembrandt of the
Rhine,
Half darkness and half light.

And they talk of ventures lost or
won,
And their talk is ever and ever the
same,
While they drink the red wine of Tar-
ragon,
From the cellars of some Spanish
Don,
Or convent set on flame. 40

Restless at times with heavy strides
He paces his parlor to and fro;
He is like a ship that at anchor rides,

And swings with the rising and falling
tides,
And tugs at her anchor-tow.

Voices mysterious far and near,
Sound of the wind and sound of the
sea,
Are calling and whispering in his ear,
"Simon Danz! Why stayest thou
here?
Come forth and follow me!" 50

So he thinks he shall take to the sea
again
For one more' cruise with his buc-
caneers,
To singe the beard of the King of Spain,
And capture another Dean of Jaen
And sell him in Algiers.

CASTLES IN SPAIN

How much of my young heart, O
Spain,
Went out to thee in days of yore!
What dreams romantic filled my brain,
And summoned back to life again
The Paladins of Charlemagne,
The Cid Campeador!

And shapes more shadowy than these,
In the dim twilight half revealed;
Phœnician galleys on the seas,
The Roman camps like hives of bees, 10
The Goth uplifting from his knees
Pelayo on his shield.

It was these memories perchance,
From annals of remotest eld,
That lent the colors of romance
To every trivial circumstance,
And changed the form and counte-
nance
Of all that I beheld.

Old towns, whose history lies hid
In monkish chronicle or rhyme, —
Burgos, the birthplace of the Cid, 21
Zamora and Valladolid,
Toledo, built and walled amid
The wars of Wamba's time;

The long, straight line of the highway,
The distant town that seems so near,
The peasants in the fields, that stay

Their toil to cross themselves and pray,
When from the belfry at midday
The Angelus they hear; 30

White crosses in the mountain pass,
Mules gay with tassels, the loud din
Of muleteers, the tethered ass
That crops the dusty wayside grass,
And cavaliers with spurs of brass
Alighting at the inn;

White hamlets hidden in fields of
wheat,
White cities slumbering by the sea,
White sunshine flooding square and
street, 39
Dark mountain ranges, at whose feet
The river beds are dry with heat, —
All was a dream to me.

Yet something sombre and severe
O'er the enchanted landscape
reigned;
A terror in the atmosphere
As if King Philip listened near,
Or Torquemada, the austere,
His ghostly sway maintained.

The softer Andalusian skies
Dispelled the sadness and the
gloom; 50
There Cadiz by the seaside lies,
And Seville's orange-orchards rise,
Making the land a paradise
Of beauty and of bloom.

There Cordova is hidden among
The palm, the olive, and the vine;
Gem of the South, by poets sung,
And in whose mosque Almanzor hung
As lamps the bells that once had
rung
At Compostella's shrine. 60

But over all the rest supreme,
The star of stars, the cynosure,
The artist's and the poet's theme,
The young man's vision, the old man's
dream, —
Granada by its winding stream,
The city of the Moor!

And there the Alhambra still recalls
Aladdin's palace of delight:
Allah il Allah! through its halls
Whispers the fountain as it falls, 70

The Darro darts beneath its walls,
The hills with snow are white.

Ah yes, the hills are white with snow,
And cold with blasts that bite and
freeze;
But in the happy vale below
The orange and pomegranate grow,
And wafts of air toss to and fro
The blossoming almond trees.

The Vega cleft by the Xenil,
The fascination and allure ^{so}
Of the sweet landscape chains the will;
The traveller lingers on the hill,
His parted lips are breathing still
The last sigh of the Moor.

How like a ruin overgrown
With flowers that hide the rents of
time,
Stands now the Past that I have
known;
Castles in Spain, not built of stone
But of white summer clouds, and blown
Into this little mist of rhyme! ⁹⁰

VITTORIA COLONNA

Vittoria Colonna, on the death of her husband
the Marchese di Pescara, retired to her castle at
Ischia (Inarimé), and there wrote the Ode upon
his death which gained her the title of Divine.

ONCE more, once more, Inarimé,
I see thy purple halls! — once more

I hear the billows of the bay
Wash the white pebbles on thy
shore.

High o'er the sea-surge and the sands,
Like a great galleon wrecked and
cast
Ashore by storms, thy castle stands,
A mouldering landmark of the
Past.

Upon its terrace-walk I see
A phantom gliding to and fro ; 10
It is Colonna, — it is she
Who lived and loved so long ago.

Pescara's beautiful young wife,
The type of perfect womanhood,
Whose life was love, the life of life,
That time and change and death
withstood.

For death, that breaks the marriage
band
In others, only closer pressed
The wedding-ring upon her hand
And closer locked and barred her
breast. 20

She knew the life-long martyrdom,
The weariness, the endless pain
Of waiting for some one to come
Who nevermore would come again.

The shadows of the chestnut trees,
The odor of the orange blooms,
The song of birds, and, more than
these,
The silence of deserted rooms ;

The respiration of the sea,
The soft caresses of the air, 30
All things in nature seemed to be
But ministers of her despair ;

Till the o'erburdened heart, so long
Imprisoned in itself, found vent
And voice in one impassioned song
Of inconsolable lament.

Then as the sun, though hidden from
sight,
Transmutes to gold the leaden mist,
Her life was interfused with light,
From realms that, though unseen,
exist. 40

Inarimé ! Inarimé !
Thy castle on the crags above
In dust shall crumble and decay,
But not the memory of her love.

THE REVENGE OF RAIN-IN- THE-FACE

In that desolate land and lone,
Where the Big Horn and Yellow-
stone

Roar down their mountain path,
By their fires the Sioux Chiefs
Muttered their woes and griefs
And the menace of their wrath.

"Revenge!" cried Rain-in-the-Face,
"Revenge upon all the race
Of the White Chief with yellow
hair!"

And the mountains dark and high 10
From their crags reëchoed the cry
Of his anger and despair.

In the meadow, spreading wide
By woodland and river-side
The Indian village stood ;
All was silent as a dream,
Save the rushing of the stream
And the blue-jay in the wood.

In his war paint and his beads,
Like a bison among the reeds, 20
In ambush the Sitting Bull
Lay with three thousand braves
Crouched in the clefts and caves,
Savage, unmerciful !

Into the fatal snare
The White Chief with yellow hair
And his three hundred men
Dashed headlong, sword in hand ;
But of that gallant band
Not one returned again. 30

The sudden darkness of death
Overwhelmed them like the breath
And smoke of a furnace fire :
By the river's bank, and between
The rocks of the ravine,
They lay in their bloody attire.

But the foemen fled in the night,
And Rain-in-the-Face, in his flight,
Uplifted high in air

As a ghastly trophy, bore 40
 The brave heart, that beat no more,
 Of the White Chief with yellow
 hair.

Whose was the right and the wrong ?
 Sing it, O funeral song,
 With a voice that is full of tears,
 And say that our broken faith
 Wrought all this ruin and scathe,
 In the Year of a Hundred Years.

TO THE RIVER YVETTE

O LOVELY river of Yvette !
 O darling river ! like a bride,
 Some dimpled, bashful, fair Lisette,
 Thou goest to wed the Orge's tide.

Maincourt, and lordly Dampierre,
 See and salute thee on thy way,
 And, with a blessing and a prayer,
 Ring the sweet bells of St. Forget.

The valley of Chevreuse in vain
 Would hold thee in its fond em-
 brace ;
 Thou glidest from its arms again
 And hurriest on with swifter pace.

Thou wilt not stay ; with restless
 feet,
 Pursuing still thine onward flight,
 Thou goest as one in haste to meet
 Her sole desire, her heart's delight.

O lovely river of Yvette !
 O darling stream ! on balanced
 wings
 The wood-birds sang the chansonnette
 That here a wandering poet sings.

THE EMPEROR'S GLOVE

" Combien faudrait-il de peaux d'Espagne pour
 faire un gant de cette grandeur ? " A play upon
 the words *gant*, a glove, and *Gand*, the French
 for Ghent.

ON St. Bavon's tower, commanding
 Half of Flanders, his domain,
 Charles the Emperor once was stand-
 ing,
 While beneath him on the landing
 Stood Duke Alva and his train.

Like a print in books of fables,
 Or a model made for show,
 With its pointed roofs and gables,
 Dormer windows, scrolls and labels,
 Lay the city far below.

Through its squares and streets and
 alleys
 Poured the populace of Ghent ;
 As a routed army rallies,
 Or as rivers run through valleys,
 Hurrying to their homes they went.

" Nest of Lutheran misbelievers ! "
 Cried Duke Alva as he gazed ;
 " Haunt of traitors and deceivers,
 Stronghold of insurgent weavers,
 Let it to the ground be razed ! "

On the Emperor's cap the feather
 Nods, as laughing he replies :
 " How many skins of Spanish leather,
 Think you, would, if stitched to-
 gether,
 Make a glove of such a size ? "

A BALLAD OF THE FRENCH FLEET

OCTOBER, 1746

MR. THOMAS PRINCE *loquitur*

A FLEET with flags arrayed
 Sailed from the port of Brest,
 And the Admiral's ship displayed
 The signal : " Steer southwest."
 For this Admiral D'Anville
 Had sworn by cross and crown
 To ravage with fire and steel
 Our helpless Boston Town.

There were rumors in the street,
 In the houses there was fear 10
 Of the coming of the fleet,
 And the danger hovering near.
 And while from mouth to mouth
 Spread the tidings of dismay,
 I stood in the Old South,
 Saying humbly : " Let us pray !

" O Lord ! we would not advise ;
 But if in thy Providence
 A tempest should arise
 To drive the French Fleet hence, 20

And scatter it far and wide,
Or sink it in the sea,
We should be satisfied,
And thine the glory be."

This was the prayer I made,
For my soul was all on flame,
And even as I prayed
The answering tempest came;
It came with a mighty power,
Shaking the windows and walls, 30
And tolling the bell in the tower,
As it tolls at funerals.

The lightning suddenly
Unsheathed its flaming sword,
And I cried: "Stand still, and see
The salvation of the Lord!"
The heavens were black with cloud,
The sea was white with hail,
And ever more fierce and loud
Blew the October gale. 40

The fleet it overtook,
And the broad sails in the van
Like the tents of Cushan shook,
Or the curtains of Midian.
Down on the reeling decks
Crashed the o'erwhelming seas;
Ah, never were there wrecks
So pitiful as these!

Like a potter's vessel broke
The great ships of the line; 50
They were carried away as a smoke,
Or sank like lead in the brine.
O Lord! before thy path
They vanished and ceased to be,
When thou didst walk in wrath
With thine horses through the sea!

THE LEAP OF ROUSHAN BEG

MOUNTED on Kyrat strong and fleet,
His chestnut steed with four white
feet,

Roushan Beg, called Kurroglou,
Son of the road and bandit chief,
Seeking refuge and relief,
Up the mountain pathway flew.

Such was Kyrat's wondrous speed,
Never yet could any steed

Reach the dust-cloud in his course.
More than maiden, more than wife, 10
More than gold and next to life
Roushan the Robber loved his
horse.

In the land that lies beyond
Erzeroum and Trebizond,
Garden-girt his fortress stood;
Plundered khan, or caravan
Journeying north from Koordistan,
Gave him wealth and wine and
food.

Seven hundred and fourscore
Men at arms his livery wore, 20
Did his bidding night and day;
Now, through regions all unknown,
He was wandering, lost, alone,
Seeking without guide his way.

Suddenly the pathway ends,
Sheer the precipice descends,
Loud the torrent roars unseen;
Thirty feet from side to side
Yawns the chasm; on air must ride
He who crosses this ravine. 30

Following close in his pursuit,
At the precipice's foot
Reyhan the Arab of Orfah
Halted with his hundred men,
Shouting upward from the glen,
"La illâh illa Allâh!"

Gently Roushan Beg caressed
Kyrat's forehead, neck, and breast;
Kissed him upon both his eyes,
Sang to him in his wild way, 40
As upon the topmost spray
Sings a bird before it flies.

"O my Kyrat, O my steed,
Round and slender as a reed,
Carry me this peril through!
Satin housings shall be thine,
Shoes of gold, O Kyrat mine,
O thou soul of Kurroglou!

"Soft thy skin as silken skein,
Soft as woman's hair thy mane, 50
Tender are thine eyes and true;
All thy hoofs like ivory shine,
Polished bright; O life of mine,
Leap, and rescue Kurroglou!"

"Careless sat he and upright;
Neither hand nor bridle shook."

Kyrat, then, the strong and fleet,
Drew together his four white feet,
Paused a moment on the verge,
Measured with his eye the space,
And into the air's embrace
Leaped as leaps the ocean surge. 60

As the ocean surge o'er sand
Bears a swimmer safe to land,
Kyrat safe his rider bore;
Rattling down the deep abyss
Fragments of the precipice
Rolled like pebbles on the shore.

Roushan's tasselled cap of red
Trembled not upon his head,
Careless sat he and upright;

Neither hand nor bridle shook, 70
Nor his head he turned to look,
As he galloped out of sight.

Flash of harness in the air,
Seen a moment like the glare
Of a sword drawn from its sheath;
Thus the phantom horseman passed,
And the shadow that he cast
Leaped the cataract underneath

Reyhan the Arab held his breath
While this vision of life and death 80
Passed above him. "Allahu!"
Cried he. "In all Koordistan
Lives there not so brave a man
As this Robber Kurroglou!"

HAROUN AL RASCHID

ONE day, Haroun Al Raschid read
A book wherein the poet said:—

“Where are the kings, and where the
rest
Of those who once the world pos-
sessed?

“They’re gone with all their pomp
and show,
They’re gone the way that thou shalt
go.

“O thou who choosest for thy share
The world, and what the world calls
fair,

“Take all that it can give or lend,
But know that death is at the end!”

Haroun Al Raschid bowed his head:
Tears fell upon the page he read.

KING TRISANKU

VISWAMITRA the Magician,
By his spells and incantations,
Up to Indra’s realms elysian
Raised Trisanku, king of nations.

Indra and the gods offended
Hurled him downward, and descend-
ing
In the air he hung suspended,
With these equal powers contend-
ing.

Thus by aspirations lifted,
By misgivings downward driven,
Human hearts are tossed and drifted
Midway between earth and heaven.

A WRAITH IN THE MIST

“Sir, I should build me a fortification, if I
came to live here.” — Boswell’s *Johnson*.

ON the green little isle of Inchken-
neth,
Who is it that walks by the shore,
So gay with his Highland blue bonnet,
So brave with his targe and clay-
more?

His form is the form of a giant,
But his face wears an aspect of pain;
Can this be the Laird of Inchkenneth?
Can this be Sir Allan McLean?

Ah, no! It is only the Rambler,
The Idler, who lives in Bolt Court,
And who says, were he Laird of Inch-
kenneth,
He would wall himself round with
a fort.

THE THREE KINGS

THREE Kings came riding from far
away,
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;
Three Wise Men out of the East were
they,
And they travelled by night and they
slept by day,
For their guide was a beautiful,
wonderful star.

The star was so beautiful, large, and
clear,
That all the other stars of the sky
Became a white mist in the atmos-
phere,
And by this they knew that the coming
was near
Of the Prince foretold in the pro-
phesy. 10

Three caskets they bore on their sad-
dlebows,
Three caskets of gold with golden
keys;
Their robes were of crimson silk with
rows
Of bells and pomegranates and furbel-
lows,
Their turbans like blossoming al-
mond-trees.

And so the Three Kings rode into the
West,
Through the dusk of night, over hill
and dell,
And sometimes they nodded with beard
on breast,
And sometimes talked, as they paused
to rest,
With the people they met at some
wayside well. 20

"Of the child that is born," said Bal-
 tazar,
 "Good people, I pray you, tell us
 the news;
 For we in the East have seen his star,
 And have ridden fast, and have ridden
 far,
 To find and worship the King of the
 Jews."

And the people answered, "You ask
 in vain;
 We know of no king but Herod the
 Great!"
 They thought the Wise Men were men
 insane,
 As they spurred their horses across the
 plain,
 Like riders in haste, and who cannot
 wait. 30

And when they came to Jerusalem,
 Herod the Great, who had heard
 this thing,
 Sent for the Wise Men and questioned
 them;
 And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem,
 And bring me tidings of this new
 king."

So they rode away; and the star stood
 still,
 The only one in the gray of morn;
 Yes, it stopped, — it stood still of its
 own free will,
 Right over Bethlehem on the hill,
 The city of David, where Christ
 was born. 40

And the Three Kings rode through the
 gate and the guard,
 Through the silent street, till their
 horses turned
 And neighed as they entered the great
 inn yard;
 But the windows were closed, and the
 doors were barred,
 And only a light in the stable burned.

And cradled there in the scented hay,
 In the air made sweet by the breath
 of kine,
 The little child in the manger lay,
 The child, that would be king one
 day
 Of a kingdom not human but divine.

His mother Mary of Nazareth 51
 Sat watching beside his place of
 rest,
 Watching the even flow of his breath,
 For the joy of life and the terror of
 death
 Were mingled together in her breast.

They laid their offerings at his feet:
 The gold was their tribute to a
 King,
 The frankincense, with its odor sweet,
 Was for the Priest, the Paraclete,
 The myrrh for the body's bury-
 ing. 60

And the mother wondered and bowed
 her head,
 And sat as still as a statue of
 stone;
 Her heart was troubled yet com-
 forted,
 Remembering what the Angel had
 said
 Of an endless reign and of David's
 throne.

Then the Kings rode out of the city
 gate,
 With a clatter of hoofs in proud
 array;
 But they went not back to Herod the
 Great,
 For they knew his malice and feared
 his hate,
 And returned to their homes by an-
 other way. 70

SONG

STAY, stay at home, my heart, and
 rest;
 Home-keeping hearts are happiest,
 For those that wander they know not
 where
 Are full of trouble and full of care;
 To stay at home is best.

Weary and homesick and distressed,
 They wander east, they wander west,
 And are baffled and beaten and blown
 about
 By the winds of the wilderness of
 doubt;
 To stay at home is best.

Then stay at home, my heart, and
rest;
The bird is safest in its nest;
O'er all that flutter their wings and
fly
A hawk is hovering in the sky;
To stay at home is best.

THE WHITE CZAR

The White Czar is Peter the Great. *Batyushka*, *Father dear*, and *Gosudar*, *Sovereign*, are titles the Russian people are fond of giving to the Czar in their popular songs.

Dost thou see on the rampart's height
That wreath of mist, in the light
Of the midnight moon? Oh, hist!
It is not a wreath of mist;
It is the Czar, the White Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!

He has heard, among the dead,
The artillery roll o'erhead;
The drums and the tramp of feet
Of his soldiery in the street;
He is awake! the White Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!

He has heard in the grave the cries
Of his people: "Awake! arise!"
He has rent the gold brocade
Whereof his shroud was made;
He is risen! the White Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!

From the Volga and the Don
He has led his armies on,
Over river and morass,
Over desert and mountain pass;
The Czar, the Orthodox Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!

He looks from the mountain-chain
Toward the seas, that cleave in twain
The continents; his hand
Points southward o'er the land
Of Roumili! O Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!

30

And the words break from his lips:
"I am the builder of ships,
And my ships shall sail these seas
To the Pillars of Hercules!
I say it; the White Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!"

"The Bosphorus shall be free;
It shall make room for me;
And the gates of its water-streets
Be unbarred before my fleets.
I say it; the White Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!"

40

"And the Christian shall no more
Be crushed, as heretofore,
Beneath thine iron rule,
O Sultan of Istamboul!
I swear it! I the Czar,
Batyushka! Gosudar!"

DELIA

SWEET as the tender fragrance that
survives,
When martyred flowers breathe out
their little lives,
Sweet as a song that once consoled
our pain,
But never will be sung to us again,
Is thy remembrance. Now the hour
of rest
Hath come to thee. Sleep, darling;
it is best.

20

"Dark is the morning with mist; in the narrow mouth of the harbor" (See p. 450.)

ULTIMA THULE

DEDICATION

TO G. W. G.

With favoring winds, o'er sunlit seas,
We sailed for the Hesperides,
The land where golden apples grow;
But that, ah! that was long ago.

How far since then the ocean streams
Have swept us from that land of
dreams,
That land of fiction and of truth,
The lost Atlantis of our youth!

Whither, ah, whither? Are not these
The tempest-haunted Orcades,
Where sea-gulls scream, and breakers
roar,
And wreck and sea-weed line the
shore?

Ultima Thule! Utmost Isle!
Here in thy harbors for a while
We lower our sails; a while we
rest
From the unending, endless quest.

POEMS

BAYARD TAYLOR

Dead he lay among his books!
The peace of God was in his looks.

As the statues in the gloom
Watch o'er Maximilian's tomb,

So those volumes from their shelves
Watched him, silent as themselves.

Ah! his hand will nevermore
Turn their storied pages o'er;

Nevermore his lips repeat
Songs of theirs, however sweet.

Let the lifeless body rest!
He is gone, who was its guest;

Gone, as travellers haste to leave
An inn, nor tarry until eve.

Traveller! in what realms afar,
In what planet, in what star,

In what vast, aerial space,
Shines the light upon thy face,

In what gardens of delight
Rest thy weary feet to-night ?

Poet! thou, whose latest verse
Was a garland on thy hearse;

Thou hast sung, with organ tone,
In Deukalion's life, thine own ;

On the ruins of the Past
Blooms the perfect flower at last.

Friend! but yesterday the bells
Rang for thee their loud farewells;

And to-day they toll for thee,
Lying dead beyond the sea ;

Lying dead among thy books,
The peace of God in all thy looks !

THE CHAMBER OVER THE GATE

Is it so far from thee
Thou canst no longer see,
In the Chamber over the Gate,
That old man desolate,
Weeping and wailing sore
For his son, who is no more ?
O Absalom, my son !

Is it so long ago
That cry of human woe
From the walled city came,
Calling on his dear name,
That it has died away
In the distance of to-day ?
O Absalom, my son !

There is no far or near,
There is neither there nor here,
There is neither soon nor late,
In that Chamber over the Gate
Nor any long ago
To that cry of human woe,
O Absalom, my son !

From the ages that are past
The voice sounds like a blast,
Over seas that wreck and drown,
Over tumult of traffic and town ;

And from ages yet to be
Come the echoes back to me,
O Absalom, my son !

Somewhere at every hour
The watchman on the tower
Looks forth, and sees the fleet
Approach of the hurrying feet
Of messengers, that bear
The tidings of despair.
O Absalom, my son !

He goes forth from the door,
Who shall return no more.
With him our joy departs ;
The light goes out in our hearts ;
In the Chamber over the Gate
We sit disconsolate.
O Absalom, my son !

That 't is a common grief
Bringeth but slight relief ;
Ours is the bitterest loss,
Ours is the heaviest cross ;
And forever the cry will be
" Would God I had died for thee,
O Absalom, my son ! "

FROM MY ARM-CHAIR

TO THE CHILDREN OF CAMBRIDGE

WHO PRESENTED TO ME, ON MY SEVENTY-
SECOND BIRTHDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1879,
THIS CHAIR MADE FROM THE WOOD OF
THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH'S CHESTNUT
TREE

AM I a king, that I should call my own
This splendid ebon throne ?
Or by what reason, or what right di-
vine,
Can I proclaim it mine ?

Only, perhaps, by right divine of
song
It may to me belong ;
Only because the spreading chestnut
tree
Of old was sung by me.

Well I remember it in all its prime,
When in the summer-time
The affluent foliage of its branches
made
A cavern of cool shade.

There, by the blacksmith's forge, be-
side the street,
Its blossoms white and sweet
Enticed the bees, until it seemed alive,
And murmured like a hive.

And when the winds of autumn, with
a shout,
Tossed its great arms about,
The shining chestnuts, bursting from
the sheath,
Dropped to the ground beneath. 20

And now some fragments of its
branches bare,
Shaped as a stately chair,
Have by my hearthstone found a home
at last,
And whisper of the past.

The Danish king could not in all his
pride
Repel the ocean tide,
But, seated in this chair, I can in
rhyme
Roll back the tide of Time.

I see again, as one in vision sees,
The blossoms and the bees, 30
And hear the children's voices shout
and call,
And the brown chestnuts fall.

I see the smithy with its fires
aglow,
I hear the bellows blow,
And the shrill hammers on the anvil
beat
The iron white with heat!

And thus, dear children, have ye made
for me
This day a jubilee,
And to my more than threescore years
and ten
Brought back my youth again. 40

The heart hath its own memory, like
the mind,
And in it are enshrined
The precious keepsakes, into which
is wrought
The giver's loving thought.

Only your love and your remembrance
could
Give life to this dead wood,
And make these branches, leafless now
so long,
Blossom again in song.

JUGURTHA

How cold are thy baths, Apollo!
Cried the African monarch, the
splendid,
As down to his death in the hollow
Dark dungeons of Rome he de-
scended,
Uncrowned, unthroned, unat-
tended;
How cold are thy baths, Apollo!
How cold are thy baths, Apollo!
Cried the Poet, unknown, unbe-
friended,
As the vision, that lured him to follow,
With the mist and the darkness
blended,
And the dream of his life was
ended;
How cold are thy baths, Apollo!

THE IRON PEN

Made from a fetter of the Prisoner Bonni-
vard, of Chillon; the handle of wood from the
Frigate Constitution, and bound with a circlet of
gold, inset with three precious stones from Siberia,
Ceylon, and Maine.

I THOUGHT this Pen would arise
From the casket where it lies —
Of itself would arise and write
My thanks and my surprise.

When you gave it me under the pines,
I dreamed these gems from the mines
Of Siberia, Ceylon, and Maine
Would glimmer as thoughts in the
lines;

That this iron link from the chain
Of Bonnivard might retain
Some verse of the Poet who sang
Of the prisoner and his pain;

That this wood from the frigate's
mast
Might write me a rhyme at last,

As it used to write on the sky
The song of the sea and the blast.

But motionless as I wait,
Like a Bishop lying in state
Lies the Pen, with its mitre of gold,
And its jewels inviolate.

Then must I speak, and say
That the light of that summer day
In the garden under the pines
Shall not fade and pass away.

I shall see you standing there,
Caressed by the fragrant air,
With the shadow on your face,
And the sunshine on your hair.

I shall hear the sweet low tone
Of a voice before unknown,
Saying, "This is from me to you —
From me, and to you alone."

And in words not idle and vain
I shall answer and thank you again
For the gift, and the grace of the
gift,
O beautiful Helen of Maine!

And forever this gift will be
As a blessing from you to me,
As a drop of the dew of your youth
On the leaves of an aged tree.

ROBERT BURNS

I SEE amid the fields of Ayr
A ploughman, who, in foul and fair,
Sings at his task
So clear, we know not if it is
The laverock's song we hear, or his,
Nor care to ask.

For him the ploughing of those fields
A more ethereal harvest yields
Than sheaves of grain;
Songs flush with purple bloom the
rye,
The plover's call, the curlew's cry,
Sing in his brain.

Touched by his hand, the wayside
weed
Becomes a flower; the lowliest reed
Beside the stream

Is clothed with beauty; gorse and
grass
And heather, where his footsteps pass,
The brighter seem.

He sings of love, whose flame il-
lumes
The darkness of lone cottage rooms; 20
He feels the force,
The treacherous undertow and stress
Of wayward passions, and no less
The keen remorse.

At moments, wrestling with his fate,
His voice is harsh, but not with
hate;
The brush-wood, hung

Are Manhood, Freedom, Brotherhood,
Its discords but an interlude
Between the words.

And then to die so young and leave
Unfinished what he might achieve!
Yet better sure
Is this, than wandering up and down,
An old man in a country town, 41
Infirm and poor.

For now he haunts his native land
As an immortal youth; his hand
Guides every plough;
He sits beside each ingle-nook,
His voice is in each rushing brook,
Each rustling bough.

"A ploughman, who, in foul and fair,
Sings at his task"

Above the tavern door, lets fall
Its bitter leaf, its drop of gall
Upon his tongue. 30

But still the music of his song
Rises o'er all, elate and strong;
Its master-chords

His presence haunts this room to-
night,
A form of mingled mist and light 30
From that far coast.
Welcome beneath this roof of mine!
Welcome! this vacant chair is thine,
Dear guest and ghost!

HELEN OF TYRE

WHAT phantom is this that appears
Through the purple mists of the
years,
Itself but a mist like these?
A woman of cloud and of fire;
It is she; it is Helen of Tyre,
The town in the midst of the
seas.

O Tyre! in thy crowded streets
The phantom appears and retreats,
And the Israelites that sell
Thy lilies and lions of brass, 10
Look up as they see her pass,
And murmur "Jezebel!"

Then another phantom is seen
At her side, in a gray gabardine,
With beard that floats to his
waist;
It is Simon Magus, the Seer;
He speaks, and she pauses to hear
The words he utters in haste.

He says: "From this evil fame,
From this life of sorrow and shame, 20
I will lift thee and make thee
mine;

Thou hast been Queen Candace,
And Helen of Troy, and shalt be
The Intelligence Divine!"

Oh, sweet as the breath of morn,
To the fallen and forlorn
Are whispered words of praise;
For the famished heart believes
The falsehood that tempts and de-
ceives,
And the promise that betrays. 30

So she follows from land to land
The wizard's beckoning hand,
As a leaf is blown by the gust,
Till she vanishes into night.
O reader, stoop down and write
With thy finger in the dust.

O town in the midst of the seas,
With thy rafts of cedar trees,
Thy merchandise and thy ships,
Thou, too, art become as naught, 40
A phantom, a shadow, a thought,
A name upon men's lips.

ELEGIAC

DARK is the morning with mist; in the
narrow mouth of the harbor
Motionless lies the sea, under its
curtain of cloud;
Dreamily glimmer the sails of ships on
the distant horizon,
Like to the towers of a town, built
on the verge of the sea.

Slowly and stately and still, they sail
forth into the ocean;
With them sail my thoughts over
the limitless deep,
Farther and farther away, borne on by
unsatisfied longings,
Unto Hesperian isles, unto Ausonian
shores.

Now they have vanished away, have
disappeared in the ocean;
Sunk are the towers of the town
into the depths of the sea!
All have vanished but those that,
moored in the neighboring road-
stead,
Sailless at anchor ride, looming so
large in the mist.

Vanished, too, are the thoughts, the
dim, unsatisfied longings;
Sunk are the turrets of cloud into
the ocean of dreams;
While in a haven of rest my heart is
riding at anchor,
Held by the chains of love, held by
the anchors of trust!

OLD ST. DAVID'S AT RADNOR

WHAT an image of peace and rest
Is this little church among its
graves!
All is so quiet; the troubled breast,
The wounded spirit, the heart op-
pressed,
Here may find the repose it craves.

See, how the ivy climbs and ex-
pands
Over this humble hermitage,
And seems to caress with its little
hands

The rough, gray stones, as a child that
stands
Caressing the wrinkled cheeks of
age!

You cross the threshold ; and dim and
small
Is the space that serves for the
Shepherd's Fold ;
The narrow aisle, the bare, white wall,
The pews, and the pulpit quaint and
tall,
Whisper and say: "Alas! we are
old."

Herbert's chapel at Bemerton
Hardly more spacious is than this ;
But poet and pastor, blent in one,
Clothed with a splendor, as of the sun,
That lowly and holy edifice.

It is not the wall of stone without
That makes the building small or
great,
But the soul's light shining round
about,
And the faith that overcometh doubt,
And the love that stronger is than
hate.

Were I a pilgrim in search of peace,
Were I a pastor of Holy Church,
More than a Bishop's diocese
Should I prize this place of rest and
release
From further longing and further
search.

Here would I stay, and let the world
With its distant thunder roar and
roll ;
Storms do not rend the sail that is
furled ;
Nor like a dead leaf, tossed and
whirled
In an eddy of wind, is the anchored
soul.

FOLK-SONGS

THE SIFTING OF PETER

IN St. Luke's Gospel we are told
How Peter in the days of old
Was sifted ;

And now, though ages intervene,
Sin is the same, while time and scene
Are shifted.

Satan desires us, great and small,
As wheat to sift us, and we all
Are tempted ;
Not one, however rich or great, 10
Is by his station or estate
Exempted.

No house so safely guarded is
But he, by some device of his,
Can enter ;
No heart hath armor so complete
But he can pierce with arrows fleet
Its centre.

For all at last the cock will crow,
Who hear the warning voice, but go 20
Unheeding,
Till thrice and more they have de-
nied
The Man of Sorrows, crucified
And bleeding.

One look of that pale, suffering face
Will make us feel the deep disgrace
Of weakness ;
We shall be sifted till the strength
Of self-conceit be changed at length
To meekness. 30

Wounds of the soul, though healed,
will ache ;
The reddening scars remain, and make
Confession ;
Lost innocence returns no more ;
We are not what we were before
Transgression.

But noble souls, through dust and
heat,
Rise from disaster and defeat
The stronger ;
And conscious still of the divine 40
Within them, lie on earth supine
No longer.

MAIDEN AND WEATHERCOCK

MAIDEN.

O WEATHERCOCK on the village spire,
With your golden feathers all on
fire,

Tell me, what can you see from your perch
Above there over the tower of the church?

WEATHERCOCK.

I can see the roofs and the streets below,
And the people moving to and fro,
And beyond, without either roof or street,
The great salt sea, and the fishermen's fleet.

I can see a ship come sailing in
Beyond the headlands and harbor of Lynn,
And a young man standing on the deck,
With a silken kerchief round his neck.

Now he is pressing it to his lips,
And now he is kissing his finger-tips,
And now he is lifting and waving his hand,
And blowing the kisses toward the land.

MAIDEN.

Ah, that is the ship from over the sea,
That is bringing my lover back to me,
Bringing my lover so fond and true,
Who does not change with the wind like you.

WEATHERCOCK.

I change with all the winds that blow,
It is only because they made me so,
And people would think it wondrous strange,
If I, a Weathercock, should not change.

O pretty Maiden, so fine and fair,
With your dreamy eyes and your golden hair,
When you and your lover meet to-day
You will thank me for looking some other way.

THE WINDMILL

BEHOLD! a giant am I!
Aloft here in my tower,
With my granite jaws I devour

The maize, and the wheat, and the rye,
And grind them into flour.

I look down over the farms;
In the fields of grain I see
The harvest that is to be,
And I fling to the air my arms,
For I know it is all for me.

I hear the sound of flails
Far off, from the threshing-floors
In barns, with their open doors,
And the wind, the wind in my sails,
Louder and louder roars.

I stand here in my place,
With my foot on the rock below,
And whichever way it may blow,
I meet it face to face
As a brave man meets his foe.

And while we wrestle and strive,
My master, the miller, stands
And feeds me with his hands;
For he knows who makes him thrive,
Who makes him lord of lands.

On Sundays I take my rest;
Church-going bells begin
Their low, melodious din;
I cross my arms on my breast,
And all is peace within.

THE TIDE RISES, THE TIDE FALLS

THE tide rises, the tide falls,
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;
Along the sea-sands damp and brown
The traveller hastens toward the town,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,
Efface the footprints in the sands,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;

The day returns, but nevermore
Returns the traveller to the shore,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

SONNETS

MY CATHEDRAL

LIKE two cathedral towers these
stately pines
Uplift their fretted summits tipped
with cones;
The arch beneath them is not built
with stones,
Not Art but Nature traced these
lovely lines,
And carved this graceful arabesque of
vines;

THE BURIAL OF THE POET

RICHARD HENRY DANA

IN the old churchyard of his native
town,
And in the ancestral tomb beside the
wall,
We laid him in the sleep that comes
to all,
And left him to his rest and his re-
down.
The snow was falling, as if Heaven
dropped down
White flowers of Paradise to strew
his pall; —
The dead around him seemed to
wake, and call
His name, as worthy of so white a
crown.

"The day returns, but nevermore
Returns the traveller to the shore"

No organ but the wind here sighs
and moans,
No sepulchre conceals a martyr's
bones,
No marble bishop on his tomb re-
clines.
Enter! the pavement, carpeted with
leaves,
Gives back a softened echo to thy
tread!
Listen! the choir is singing; all the
birds,
In leafy galleries beneath the eaves,
Are singing! listen, ere the sound
be fled,
And learn there may be worship
without words.

And now the moon is shining on the
scene,
And the broad sheet of snow is writ-
ten o'er
With shadows cruciform of leafless
trees,
As once the winding-sheet of Saladin
With chapters of the Koran; but,
ah! more
Mysterious and triumphant signs are
these.

NIGHT

INTO the darkness and the hush of night
Slowly the landscape sinks, and
fades away,

And with it fade the phantoms of
 the day,
 The ghosts of men and things, that
 haunt the light.
 The crowd, the clamor, the pursuit,
 the flight,
 The unprofitable splendor and display,
 The agitations, and the cares that
 prey
 Upon our hearts, all vanish out of
 sight.
 The better life begins ; the world no
 more
 Molests us ; all its records we erase
 From the dull commonplace book of
 our lives,
 That like a palimpsest is written o'er
 With trivial incidents of time and
 place,
 And lo ! the ideal, hidden beneath,
 revives.

L'ENVOI

THE POET AND HIS SONGS

As the birds come in the Spring,
 We know not from where ;
 As the stars come at evening
 From depths of the air ;

As the rain comes from the cloud,
 And the brook from the ground ;
 As suddenly, low or loud,
 Out of silence a sound ;

As the grape comes to the vine,
 The fruit to the tree ;
 As the wind comes to the pine,
 And the tide to the sea ;

As come the white sails of ships
 O'er the ocean's verge ;
 As comes the smile to the lips,
 The foam to the surge ;

So come to the Poet his songs,
 All hitherward blown
 From the misty realm, that belongs
 To the vast Unknown.

His, and not his, are the lays
 He sings ; and their fame
 Is his, and not his ; and the praise
 And the pride of a name.

For voices pursue him by day,
 And haunt him by night,
 And he listens, and needs must
 obey,
 When the Angel says, " Write ! "

"Becalmed upon the sea of Thought"

IN THE HARBOR

BECALMED

BECALMED upon the sea of Thought,
Still unattained the land it sought,
My mind, with loosely hanging sails,
Lies waiting the auspicious gales.

On either side, behind, before,
The ocean stretches like a floor, —
A level floor of amethyst,
Crowned by a golden dome of mist.

Blow, breath of inspiration, blow !
Shake and uplift this golden glow !
And fill the canvas of the mind
With wafts of thy celestial wind.

Blow, breath of song ! until I feel
The straining sail, the lifting keel,
The life of the awakening sea,
Its motion and its mystery !

THE POET'S CALENDAR

JANUARY

JANUS am I ; oldest of potentates ;
Forward I look, and backward, and
below

I count, as god of avenues and
gates,
The years that through my portals
come and go.
I block the roads, and drift the fields
with snow ;
I chase the wild-fowl from the fro-
zen fen ;
My frosts congeal the rivers in their
flow,
My fires light up the hearths and
hearts of men.

FEBRUARY

I am lustration ; and the sea is mine !
I wash the sands and headlands
with my tide ;
My brow is crowned with branches of
the pine ;
Before my chariot-wheels the fishes
glide.
By me all things unclean are puri-
fied,
By me the souls of men washed
white again ;
E'en the unlovely tombs of those who
died
Without a dirge, I cleanse from
every stain.

MARCH

I Martius am! Once first, and now
the third!
To lead the Year was my appointed
place;
A mortal dispossessed me by a word,
And set there Janus with the double
face.
Hence, I make war on all the human
race;
I shake the cities with my hurri-
canes;
I flood the rivers and their banks
efface,
And drown the farms and hamlets
with my rains.

APRIL

I open wide the portals of the Spring
To welcome the procession of the
flowers,
With their gay banners, and the birds
that sing
Their song of songs from their
aerial towers.
I soften with my sunshine and my
showers
The heart of earth; with thoughts
of love I glide
Into the hearts of men; and with the
Hours
Upon the Bull with wreathèd horns
I ride.

MAY

Hark! The sea-faring wild-fowl loud
proclaim
My coming, and the swarming of
the bees.

These are my heralds, and behold! my
name
Is written in blossoms on the haw-
thorn-trees.
I tell the mariner when to sail the
seas;
I waft o'er all the land from far
away
The breath and bloom of the Hesper-
ides,
My birthplace. I am Maia. I am
May.

JUNE

Mine is the Month of Roses; yea, and
mine
The Month of Marriages! All plea-
sant sights
And scents, the fragrance of the blos-
soming vine,
The foliage of the valleys and the
heights.
Mine are the longest days, the lovel-
iest nights;
The mower's scythe makes music to
my ear;
I am the mother of all dear delights;
I am the fairest daughter of the year.

JULY

My emblem is the Lion, and I breathe
The breath of Libyan deserts o'er
the land;
My sickle as a sabre I unsheathe,
And bent before me the pale har-
vests stand.
The lakes and rivers shrink at my
command,
And there is thirst and fever in the
air;

" Mine are the longest days, the loveliest nights "

"I shroud myself in gloom . . ."

The sky is changed to brass, the earth
to sand;
I am the Emperor whose name I
bear.

AUGUST

The Emperor Octavian, called the
August,
I being his favorite, bestowed his
name
Upon me, and I hold it still in trust,
In memory of him and of his fame.
I am the Virgin, and my vestal flame
Burns less intensely than the Lion's
rage;
Sheaves are my only garlands, and I
claim
The golden Harvests as my herit-
age.

SEPTEMBER

I bear the Scales, where hang in equi-
poise
The night and day; and when unto
my lips
I put my trumpet, with its stress and
noise
Fly the white clouds like tattered
sails of ships;

The tree-tops lash the air with sound-
ing whips;
Southward the clamorous sea-fowl
wing their flight;
The hedges are all red with haws and
hips,
The Hunter's Moon reigns empress
of the night.

OCTOBER

My ornaments are fruits; my gar-
ments leaves
Woven like cloth of gold, and crim-
son dyed;
I do not boast the harvesting of
sheaves,
O'er orchards and o'er vineyards I
preside.
Though on the frigid Scorpion I ride,
The dreamy air is full, and over-
flows
With tender memories of the summer-
tide,
And mingled voices of the doves and
crows.

NOVEMBER

The Centaur, Sagittarius, am I,
Born of Ixion's and the cloud's em-
brace;

With sounding hoofs across the earth
 I fly,
 A steed Thessalian with a human
 face,
 Sharp winds the arrows are with which
 I chase
 The leaves, half dead already with
 affright;
 I shroud myself in gloom; and to the
 race
 Of mortals bring nor comfort nor
 delight.

DECEMBER

Riding upon the Goat, with snow-
 white hair,
 I come, the last of all. This crown
 of mine
 Is of the holly; in my hand I bear
 The thyrsus, tipped with fragrant
 cones of pine.
 I celebrate the birth of the Divine,
 And the return of the Saturnian
 reign; —
 My songs are carols sung at every
 shrine,
 Proclaiming "Peace on earth, good
 will to men."

AUTUMN WITHIN

It is autumn; not without,
 But within me is the cold.
 Youth and spring are all about;
 It is I that have grown old.

Birds are darting through the air,
 Singing, building without rest;
 Life is stirring everywhere,
 Save within my lonely breast.

There is silence: the dead leaves
 Fall and rustle and are still;
 Beats no flail upon the sheaves,
 Comes no murmur from the mill.

THE FOUR LAKES OF MADISON

FOUR limpid lakes, — four Naiades
 Or sylvan deities are these,
 In flowing robes of azure dressed;
 Four lovely handmaids, that uphold
 Their shining mirrors, rimmed with
 gold,
 To the fair city in the West.

By day the coursers of the sun
 Drink of these waters as they run
 Their swift diurnal round on high;
 By night the constellations glow
 Far down the hollow deeps below,
 And glimmer in another sky.

Fair lakes, serene and full of light,
 Fair town, arrayed in robes of white,
 How visionary ye appear!
 All like a floating landscape seems
 In cloud-land or the land of dreams,
 Bathed in a golden atmosphere!

VICTOR AND VANQUISHED

As one who long hath fled with pant-
 ing breath
 Before his foe, bleeding and near to
 fall,
 I turn and set my back against the
 wall,
 And look thee in the face, trium-
 phant Death.
 I call for aid, and no one answereth;
 I am alone with thee, who conquer-
 est all;
 Yet me thy threatening form doth
 not appall,
 For thou art but a phantom and a
 wraith.
 Wounded and weak, sword broken at
 the hilt,
 With armor shattered, and without
 a shield,
 I stand unmoved; do with me what
 thou wilt;
 I can resist no more, but will not yield.
 This is no tournament where cowards
 tilt:
 The vanquished here is victor of the
 field.

MOONLIGHT

As a pale phantom with a lamp
 Ascends some ruin's haunted stair,
 So glides the moon along the damp
 Mysterious chambers of the air.

Now hidden in cloud, and now re-
 vealed,
 As if this phantom, full of pain,
 Were by the crumbling walls con-
 cealed,
 And at the windows seen again.

Until at last, serene and proud
 In all the splendor of her light,
 She walks the terraces of cloud,
 Supreme as Empress of the Night.

I look, but recognize no more
 Objects familiar to my view ;
 The very pathway to my door
 Is an enchanted avenue.

All things are changed. One mass of
 shade,
 The elm-trees drop their curtains
 down ;
 By palace, park, and colonnade
 I walk as in a foreign town.

The very ground beneath my feet
 Is clothed with a diviner air ;

While marble paves the silent street
 And glimmers in the empty square.

Illusion ! Underneath there lies
 The common life of every day ;
 Only the spirit glorifies
 With its own tints the sober gray.

In vain we look, in vain uplift
 Our eyes to heaven, if we are blind,
 We see but what we have the gift
 Of seeing ; what we bring we find.

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

[A FRAGMENT]

I

WHAT is this I read in history,
 Full of marvel, full of mystery,

" The very ground beneath my feet
 Is clothed with a diviner air "

Difficult to understand ?
Is it fiction, is it truth ?
Children in the flower of youth,
Heart in heart, and hand in hand,
Ignorant of what helps or harms.
Without armor, without arms,
Journeying to the Holy Land !

Who shall answer or divine ?
Never since the world was made
Such a wonderful crusade
Started forth for Palestine.
Never while the world shall last
Will it reproduce the past ;
Never will it see again
Such an army, such a band,
Over mountain, over main,
Journeying to the Holy Land.

Like a shower of blossoms blown
From the parent trees were they ;
Like a flock of birds that fly
Through the unfrequented sky,
Holding nothing as their own,
Passed they into lands unknown,
Passed to suffer and to die.

O the simple, child-like trust !
O the faith that could believe
What the harnessed, iron-mailed
Knights of Christendom had failed, 30
By their prowess, to achieve,
They, the children, could and must !

Little thought the Hermit, preaching
Holy Wars to knight and baron,
That the words dropped in his teach-
ing,

His entreaty, his beseeching,
Would by children's hands be gleaned,
And the staff on which he leaned
Blossom like the rod of Aaron.

As a summer wind upheaves
The innumerable leaves
In the bosom of a wood, —
Not as separate leaves, but massed
All together by the blast, —
So for evil or for good
His resistless breath upheaved
All at once the many-leaved,
Many-thoughted multitude.

In the tumult of the air
Rock the boughs with all the nests 50
Cradled on their tossing crests ;

By the fervor of his prayer
Troubled hearts were everywhere
Rocked and tossed in human breasts.

For a century, at least,
His prophetic voice had ceased ;
But the air was heated still
By his lurid words and will,
As from fires in far-off woods,
In the autumn of the year, 60
An unwonted fever broods
In the sultry atmosphere.

II

In Cologne the bells were ringing,
In Cologne the nuns were singing
Hymns and canticles divine ;
Loud the monks sang in their stalls,
And the thronging streets were loud
With the voices of the crowd ; —
Underneath the city walls
Silent flowed the river Rhine. 70

From the gates, that summer day,
Clad in robes of hodden gray,
With the red cross on the breast,
Azure-eyed and golden-haired,
Forth the young crusaders fared ;
While above the band devoted
Consecrated banners floated,
Fluttered many a flag and streamer,
And the cross o'er all the rest !
Singing lowly, meekly, slowly, 80
" Give us, give us back the holy
Sepulchre of the Redeemer !"
On the vast procession pressed,
Youths and maidens. . . .

III

Ah ! what master hand shall paint
How they journeyed on their way,
How the days grew long and dreary,
How their little feet grew weary,
How their little hearts grew faint !

Ever swifter day by day 90
Flowed the homeward river ; ever
More and more its whitening cur-
rent
Broke and scattered into spray,
Till the calmly flowing river
Changed into a mountain torrent,
Rushing from its glacier green
Down through chasm and black ra-
vine.

Like a phoenix in its nest,
 Burned the red sun in the West,
 Sinking in an ashen cloud ; 100
 In the East, above the crest
 Of the sea-like mountain chain,
 Like a phoenix from its shroud,
 Came the red sun back again.

Now around them, white with snow,
 Closed the mountain peaks. Below,

On the mountains' southern slope
 Lies Jerusalem the Holy ! "
 As a white rose in its pride,
 By the wind in summer-tide
 Tossed and loosened from the branch,
 Showers its petals o'er the ground,
 From the distant mountain's side,
 Scattering all its snows around,
 With mysterious, muffled sound,
 Loosened, fell the avalanche. 130

"Forth the young crusaders fared"

Headlong from the precipice
 Down into the dark abyss,
 Plunged the cataract, white with foam ;
 And it said, or seemed to say : 110
 "Oh return, while yet you may,
 Foolish children, to your home,
 There the Holy City is !"

But the dauntless leader said :
 "Faint not, though your bleeding feet
 O'er these slippery paths of sleet
 Move but painfully and slowly ;
 Other feet than yours have bled ;
 Other tears than yours been shed.
 Courage ! lose not heart or hope ; 120

Voices, echoes far and near,
 Roar of winds and waters blending,
 Mists uprising, clouds impending,
 Filled them with a sense of fear,
 Formless, nameless, never ending.

SUNDOWN

THE summer sun is sinking low ;
 Only the tree-tops redden and glow ;
 Only the weathercock on the spire
 Of the neighboring church is a flame
 of fire ;
 All is in shadow below.

"Only the lamp in the anchored bark
Sends its glimmer across the dark"

O beautiful, awful summer day,
What hast thou given, what taken
away?
Life and death, and love and hate,
Homes made happy or desolate,
Hearts made sad or gay!

On the road of life one mile-stone
more!
In the book of life one leaf turned
o'er!
Like a red seal is the setting sun
On the good and the evil men have
done, —
Naught can to-day restore!

CHIMES

SWEET chimes! that in the loneliness
of night
Salute the passing hour, and in the
dark
And silent chambers of the house-
hold mark
The movements of the myriad orbs
of light!
Through my closed eyelids, by the
inner sight,
I see the constellations in the
arc
Of their great circles moving on,
and hark!
I almost hear them singing in their
flight.
Better than sleep it is to lie awake,
O'er-canopied by the vast starry
dome
Of the immeasurable sky; to feel
The slumbering world sink under us,
and make

Hardly an eddy, — a mere rush of
foam
On the great sea beneath a sinking
keel.

FOUR BY THE CLOCK

"Nahant, September 8, 1880, four o'clock in
the morning."

Four by the clock! and yet not
day;
But the great world rolls and wheels
away,
With its cities on land, and its ships
at sea,
Into the dawn that is to be!

Only the lamp in the anchored bark
Sends its glimmer across the dark,
And the heavy breathing of the sea
Is the only sound that comes to me.

AUF WIEDERSEHEN

IN MEMORY OF J. T. F.

UNTIL we meet again! That is the
meaning
Of the familiar words, that men re-
peat
At parting in the street.
Ah yes, till then! but when death in-
tervening
Rends us asunder, with what cease-
less pain
We wait for the Again!

The friends who leave us do not feel
the sorrow
Of parting, as we feel it, who must stay

Lamenting day by day,
And knowing, when we wake upon
the morrow,
We shall not find in its accustomed
place
The one beloved face.

It were a double grief, if the departed,
Being released from earth, should still
retain
A sense of earthly pain ;
It were a double grief, if the true-
hearted,
Who loved us here, should on the
farther shore
Remember us no more.

Believing, in the midst of our afflic-
tions,
That death is a beginning, not an end,
We cry to them, and send
Farewells, that better might be called
predictions,
Being fore-shadowings of the future,
thrown
Into the vast Unknown.

Faith overleaps the confines of our
reason,
And if by faith, as in old times was
said,
Women received their dead
Raised up to life, then only for a season
Our partings are, nor shall we wait in
vain
Until we meet again !

ELEGIAC VERSE

I

PERADVENTURE of old, some bard in
Ionian Islands,
Walking alone by the sea, hearing
the wash of the waves,
Learned the secret from them of the
beautiful verse elegiac,
Breathing into his song motion and
sound of the sea.

For as the wave of the sea, upheaving
in long undulations,
Plunges loud on the sands, pauses,
and turns, and retreats,
So the Hexameter, rising and singing,
with cadence sonorous,
Falls ; and in reflux rhythm back
the Pentameter flows.

II

Not in his youth alone, but in age,
may the heart of the poet
Bloom into song, as the gorse blos-
soms in autumn and spring

III

Not in tenderness wanting, yet rough
are the rhymes of our poet ;
Though it be Jacob's voice, Esau's,
alas ! are the hands

IV

Let us be grateful to writers for what
is left in the inkstand;
When to leave off is an art only at-
tained by the few.

V

How can the Three be One? you ask
me; I answer by asking,
Hail and snow and rain, are they
not three, and yet one?

VI

By the mirage uplifted, the land floats
vague in the ether,
Ships and the shadows of ships hang
in the motionless air;
So by the art of the poet our common
life is uplifted,
So, transfigured, the world floats in
a luminous haze.

VII

Like a French poem is Life; being
only perfect in structure
When with the masculine rhymes
mingled the feminine are.

VIII

Down from the mountain descends the
brooklet, rejoicing in freedom;
Little it dreams of the mill hid in
the valley below;
Glad with the joy of existence, the
child goes singing and laughing,
Little dreaming what toils lie in the
future concealed.

IX

As the ink from our pen, so flow our
thoughts and our feelings
When we begin to write, however
sluggish before.

X

Like the Kingdom of Heaven, the
Fountain of Youth is within
us;
If we seek it elsewhere, old shall we
grow in the search.

XI

If you would hit the mark, you must
aim a little above it;
Every arrow that flies feels the at-
traction of earth.

XII

Wisely the Hebrews admit no Present
tense in their language;
While we are speaking the word, it
is already the Past.

XIII

In the twilight of age all things seem
strange and phantasmal,
As between daylight and dark
ghost-like the landscape ap-
pears.

XIV

Great is the art of beginning, but
greater the art is of ending;
Many a poem is marred by a super-
fluous verse.

THE CITY AND THE SEA

THE panting City cried to the Sea,
"I am faint with heat, — Oh breathe
on me!"

And the Sea said, "Lo, I breathe! but
my breath
To some will be life, to others death!"

As to Prometheus, bringing ease
In pain, come the Oceanides,

So to the City, hot with the flame
Of the pitiless sun, the east wind
came.

It came from the heaving breast of
the deep,
Silent as dreams are, and sudden as
sleep.

Life-giving, death-giving, which will
it be;
O breath of the merciful, merciless
Sea?

MEMORIES

OFT I remember those whom I have
known
In other days, to whom my heart
was led
As by a magnet, and who are not
dead,

But absent, and their memories
overgrown
With other thoughts and troubles of
my own,
As graves with grasses are, and at
their head
The stone with moss and lichens so
o'erspread,
Nothing is legible but the name
alone.
And is it so with them? After long
years,
Do they remember me in the same
way,
And is the memory pleasant as to
me?
I fear to ask; yet wherefore are my
fears?
Pleasures, like flowers, may wither
and decay,
And yet the root perennial may be.

HERMES TRISMEGISTUS

As Seleucus narrates, Hermes describes the principles that rank as wholes in two myriads of books; or, as we are informed by Manetho, he perfectly unfolded these principles in three myriads six thousand five hundred and twenty-five volumes. . . .

. . . Our ancestors dedicated the inventions of their wisdom to this deity, inscribing all their own writings with the name of Hermes.

— LAMBELICUS.

STILL through Egypt's desert places
Flows the lordly Nile,
From its banks the great stone faces
Gaze with patient smile.
Still the pyramids imperious
Pierce the cloudless skies,
And the Sphinx stares with mysteri-
ous,
Solemn, stony eyes.

But where are the old Egyptian
Demi-gods and kings? 10
Nothing left but an inscription
Graven on stones and rings.
Where are Helios and Hephæstus,
Gods of eldest eld?
Where is Hermes Trismegistus,
Who their secrets held?

Where are now the many hundred
Thousand books he wrote?
By the Thaumaturgists plundered,
Lost in lands remote; 20

In oblivion sunk forever,
As when o'er the land
Blows a storm-wind, in the river
Sinks the scattered sand.

Something unsubstantial, ghostly,
Seems this Theurgist,
In deep meditation mostly
Wrapped, as in a mist.
Vague, phantasmal, and unreal
To our thought he seems, 30
Walking in a world ideal,
In a land of dreams.

Was he one, or many, merging
Name and fame in one,
Like a stream, to which, converging,
Many streamlets run?
Till, with gathered power proceed-
ing,
Ampler sweep it takes,
Downward the sweet waters leading
From unnumbered lakes. 40

By the Nile I see him wandering,
Pausing now and then,
On the mystic union pondering
Between gods and men;
Half believing, wholly feeling,
With supreme delight,
How the gods, themselves conceal-
ing,
Lift men to their height.

Or in Thebes, the hundred-gated,
In the thoroughfare 50
Breathing, as if consecrated,
A diviner air;
And amid discordant noises,
In the jostling throng,
Hearing far, celestial voices
Of Olympian song.

Who shall call his dreams fallacious?
Who has searched or sought
All the unexplored and spacious
Universe of thought? 60
Who, in his own skill confiding,
Shall with rule and line
Mark the border-land dividing
Human and divine?

Trismegistus! three times greatest!
How thy name sublime
Has descended to this latest
Progeny of time!

Happy they whose written pages
Perish with their lives, 70
If amid the crumbling ages
Still their name survives!

Thine, O priest of Egypt, lately
Found I in the vast,
Weed-encumbered, sombre, stately,
Graveyard of the Past;
And a presence moved before me
On that gloomy shore,
As a waft of wind, that o'er me
Breathed, and was no more. 80

TO THE AVON

Flow on, sweet river! like his verse
Who lies beneath this sculptured
hearse;
Nor wait beside the churchyard wall
For him who cannot hear thy call.

Thy playmate once; I see him now
A boy with sunshine on his brow,
And hear in Stratford's quiet street
The patter of his little feet.

I see him by thy shallow edge
Wading knee-deep amid the sedge;
And lost in thought, as if thy stream
Were the swift river of a dream.

He wonders whitherward it flows;
And fain would follow where it goes.
To the wide world, that shall ere long
Be filled with his melodious song.

Flow on, fair stream! That dream is
o'er;
He stands upon another shore;
A vaster river near him flows,
And still he follows where it goes.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD

"E venni dal martirio a questa pace."
Paradiso, XV. 148.

THESE words the poet heard in Para-
dise,
Uttered by one who, bravely dying
here,
In the true faith was living in that
sphere
Where the celestial cross of sacrifice

Spread its protecting arms athwart the
skies;
And set thereon, like jewels crystal
clear,
The souls magnanimous, that knew
not fear,
Flashed their effulgence on his daz-
zled eyes.
Ah me! how dark the discipline of
pain,
Were not the suffering followed by
the sense
Of infinite rest and infinite release!
This is our consolation; and again
A great soul cries to us in our sus-
pense,
"I came from martyrdom unto this
peace!"

MY BOOKS

SADLY as some old mediæval knight
Gazed at the arms he could no longer
wield,
The sword two-handed and the
shining shield
Suspended in the hall, and full in
sight,
While secret longings for the lost de-
light
Of tourney or adventure in the field
Came over him, and tears but half
concealed
Trembled and fell upon his beard of
white,
So I behold these books upon their
shelf,
My ornaments and arms of other
days;
Not wholly useless, though no longer
used,
For they remind me of my other self,
Younger and stronger, and the plea-
sant ways
In which I walked, now clouded and
confused.

MAD RIVER

IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

TRAVELLER.

WHY dost thou wildly rush and roar,
Mad River, O Mad River?

Wilt thou not pause and cease to pour
Thy hurrying, headlong waters o'er
This rocky shelf forever ?

What secret trouble stirs thy breast ?
Why all this fret and flurry ?
Dost thou not know that what is best

A little child, that all alone
Comes venturing down the stairs of
stone,
Irresolute and trembling.

Later, by wayward fancies led,
For the wide world I panted ;

"The mills are tired of waiting"

In this too restless world is rest
From over-work and worry ? 10

THE RIVER.

What wouldst thou in these mountains
seek,
O stranger from the city ?
Is it perhaps some foolish freak
Of thine, to put the words I speak
Into a plaintive ditty ?

TRAVELLER.

Yes ; I would learn of thee thy song,
With all its flowing numbers,
And in a voice as fresh and strong
As thine is, sing it all day long,
And hear it in my slumbers. 20

THE RIVER.

A brooklet nameless and unknown
Was I at first, resembling

Out of the forest, dark and dread,
Across the open fields I fled,
Like one pursued and haunted. 30

I tossed my arms, I sang aloud,
My voice exultant blending
With thunder from the passing cloud,
The wind, the forest bent and bowed,
The rush of rain descending.

I heard the distant ocean call,
Imploring and entreating ;
Drawn onward, o'er this rocky wall
I plunged, and the loud waterfall
Made answer to the greeting. 40

And now, beset with many ills,
A toilsome life I follow ;
Compelled to carry from the hills
These logs to the impatient mills
Below there in the hollow.

Yet something ever cheers and charms
 The rudeness of my labors;
 Daily I water with these arms
 The cattle of a hundred farms,
 And have the birds for neighbors. 50

Men call me Mad, and well they may,
 When, full of rage and trouble,
 I burst my banks of sand and clay,
 And sweep their wooden bridge away,
 Like withered reeds or stubble.

Now go and write thy little rhyme,
 As of thine own creating.
 Thou seest the day is past its prime;
 I can no longer waste my time;
 The mills are tired of waiting. 60

POSSIBILITIES

WHERE are the Poets, unto whom be-
 long
 The Olympian heights; whose sing-
 ing shafts were sent
 Straight to the mark, and not from
 bows half bent,
 But with the utmost tension of the
 thong?
 Where are the stately argosies of song,
 Whose rushing keels made music as
 they went
 Sailing in search of some new con-
 tinent,
 With all sail set, and steady winds
 and strong?
 Perhaps there lives some dreamy boy,
 untaught
 In schools, some graduate of the
 field or street,
 Who shall become a master of the
 art,
 An admiral sailing the high seas of
 thought,
 Fearless and first, and steering with
 his fleet
 For lands not yet laid down in any
 chart.

DECORATION DAY

SLEEP, comrades, sleep and rest
 On this Field of the Grounded Arms,
 Where foes no more molest,
 Nor sentry's shot alarms!

Ye have slept on the ground before,
 And started to your feet
 At the cannon's sudden roar,
 Or the drum's redoubling beat.

But in this camp of Death
 No sound your slumber breaks;
 Here is no fevered breath,
 No wound that bleeds and aches.

All is repose and peace,
 Untrampled lies the sod;
 The shouts of battle cease,
 It is the truce of God!

Rest, comrades, rest and sleep!
 The thoughts of men shall be
 As sentinels to keep
 Your rest from danger free.

Your silent tents of green
 We deck with fragrant flowers;
 Yours has the suffering been,
 The memory shall be ours.

A FRAGMENT

AWAKE! arise! the hour is late!
 Angels are knocking at thy door!
 They are in haste and cannot wait,
 And once departed come no more.

Awake! arise! the athlete's arm
 Loses its strength by too much rest;
 The fallow land, the untilled farm
 Produces only weeds at best.

LOSS AND GAIN

WHEN I compare
 What I have lost with what I have
 gained,
 What I have missed with what at-
 tained,
 Little room do I find for pride.

I am aware
 How many days have been idly spent;
 How like an arrow the good intent
 Has fallen short or been turned aside.

But who shall dare
 To measure loss and gain in this wise?
 Defeat may be victory in disguise;
 The lowest ebb is the turn of the
 tide.

INSCRIPTION ON THE SHANK-
LIN FOUNTAIN

O TRAVELLER, stay thy weary feet;
 Drink of this fountain, pure and
 sweet;

It flows for rich and poor the same.
 Then go thy way, remembering still
 The wayside well beneath the hill,
 The cup of water in his name.

THE BELLS OF SAN BLAS

WHAT say the Bells of San Blas
 To the ships that southward pass
 From the harbor of Mazatlan?
 To them it is nothing more
 Than the sound of surf on the shore, —
 Nothing more to master or man.

But to me, a dreamer of dreams,
 To whom what is and what seems
 Are often one and the same, —
 The Bells of San Blas to me 10
 Have a strange, wild melody,
 And are something more than a
 name.

For bells are the voice of the church;
 They have tones that touch and search
 The hearts of young and old;
 One sound to all, yet each
 Lends a meaning to their speech,
 And the meaning is manifold.

They are a voice of the Past,
 Of an age that is fading fast, 20
 Of a power austere and grand;
 When the flag of Spain unfurled
 Its folds o'er this western world,
 And the Priest was lord of the land.

The chapel that once looked down
 On the little seaport town
 Has crumbled into the dust
 And on oaken beams below
 The bells swing to and fro,
 And are green with mould and
 rust. 30

"Is, then, the old faith dead,"
 They say, "and in its stead
 Is some new faith proclaimed,
 That we are forced to remain
 Naked to sun and rain,
 Unsheltered and ashamed?"

"The chapel that once looked down
 On the little seaport town"

"Once in our tower aloof
We rang over wall and roof
Our warnings and our complaints;
And round about us there 40
The white doves filled the air,
Like the white souls of the saints.

"The saints! Ah, have they grown
Forgetful of their own?
Are they asleep, or dead,
That open to the sky
Their ruined Missions lie,
No longer tenanted?

"Oh, bring us back once more
The vanished days of yore, 50
When the world with faith was
filled;
Bring back the fervid zeal,
The hearts of fire and steel,
The hands that believe and build.

"Then from our tower again
We will send over land and main
Our voices of command,
Like exiled kings who return
To their thrones, and the people learn
That the Priest is lord of the
land!" 60

O Bells of San Blas, in vain
Ye call back the Past again!
The Past is deaf to your prayer;
Out of the shadows of night
The world rolls into light;
It is daybreak everywhere.

FRAGMENTS

October 22, 1838.

NEGLECTED record of a mind neglected,
Unto what "lets and stops" art thou
subjected!
The day with all its toils and occupations,
The night with its reflections and sensations,
The future, and the present, and the past, —
All I remember, feel, and hope at last,
All shapes of joy and sorrow, as they
pass, —
Find but a dusty image in this glass.

August 18, 1847.

O faithful, indefatigable tides,
That evermore upon God's errands
go, —
Now seaward bearing tidings of the
land, —
Now landward bearing tidings of the
sea, —
And filling every frith and estuary,
Each arm of the great sea, each little
creek,
Each thread and filament of water-
courses,
Full with your ministration of de-
light!
Under the rafters of this wooden
bridge
I see you come and go; sometimes in
haste
To reach your journey's end, which
being done
With feet unrested ye return again
And recommence the never-ending
task;
Patient, whatever burdens ye may
bear,
And fretted only by the impeding
rocks.

December 18, 1847.

Soft through the silent air descend the
feathery snow-flakes;
White are the distant hills, white are
the neighboring fields;
Only the marshes are brown, and the
river rolling among them
Weareth the leaden hue seen in the
eyes of the blind.

August 4, 1856.

A lovely morning, without the glare
of the sun, the sea in great commotion,
chafing and foaming.

So from the bosom of darkness our
days come roaring and gleam-
ing,
Chafe and break into foam, sink
into darkness again.
But on the shores of Time each leaves
some trace of its passage,
Though the succeeding wave washes
it out from the sand.

Christus

CHRISTUS: A MYSTERY

INTROITUS

*The ANGEL bearing the PROPHET
HABAKKUK through the air.*

PROPHET.

WHY dost thou bear me aloft,
O Angel of God, on thy pinions
O'er realms and dominions?
Softly I float as a cloud
In air, for thy right hand upholds me,
Thy garment enfolds me!

ANGEL.

Lo! as I passed on my way
In the harvest-field I beheld thee,
When no man compelled thee,
Bearing with thine own hands 10
This food to the famishing reapers,
A flock without keepers!

The fragrant sheaves of the wheat
Made the air above them sweet;
Sweeter and more divine
Was the scent of the scattered grain,

That the reaper's hand let fall
To be gathered again
By the hand of the gleaner!
Sweetest, divinest of all, 20
Was the humble deed of thine,
And the meekness of thy demeanor!

PROPHET.

Angel of Light,
I cannot gainsay thee,
I can but obey thee!

ANGEL.

Beautiful was it in the Lord's sight,
To behold his Prophet
Feeding those that toil,
The tillers of the soil.
But why should the reapers eat of it 30
And not the Prophet of Zion
In the den of the lion?
The Prophet should feed the Prophet!
Therefore I thee have uplifted,
And bear thee aloft by the hair
Of thy head, like a cloud that is
drifted

Through the vast unknown of the air!

Five days hath the Prophet been
lying

In Babylon, in the den
Of the lions, death-defying, 40
Defying hunger and thirst;
But the worst

Is the mockery of men!
Alas! how full of fear
Is the fate of Prophet and Seer!
Forevermore, forevermore,
It shall be as it hath been heretofore;

The age in which they live
Will not forgive
The splendor of the everlasting light,
That makes their foreheads bright, 51
Nor the sublime
Fore-running of their time!

PROPHET.

Oh tell me, for thou knowest,
Wherefore and by what grace,
Have I, who am least and lowest,
Been chosen to this place,
To this exalted part?

ANGEL.

Because thou art
The Struggler; and from thy youth 60
Thy humble and patient life

Hath been a strife
And battle for the Truth;
Nor hast thou paused nor halted,
Nor ever in thy pride
Turned from the poor aside,
But with deed and word and pen
Hast served thy fellow-men;
Therefore art thou exalted!

PROPHET.

By thine arrow's light 70
Thou goest onward through the night,
And by the clear
Sheen of thy glittering spear!
When will our journey end?

ANGEL.

Lo, it is ended!
Yon silver gleam
Is the Euphrates' stream.
Let us descend
Into the city splendid,
Into the City of Gold! 80

PROPHET.

Behold!
As if the stars had fallen from their
places
Into the firmament below,
The streets, the gardens, and the va-
cant spaces
With light are all aglow;
And hark!
As we draw near,
What sound is it I hear
Ascending through the dark?

ANGEL.

The tumultuous noise of the nations,
Their rejoicings and lamentations, 91
The pleadings of their prayer,
The groans of their despair,
The cry of their imprecations,
Their wrath, their love, their hate!

PROPHET.

Surely the world doth wait
The coming of its Redeemer!

ANGEL.

Awake from thy sleep, O dreamer!
The hour is near, though late;
Awake! write the vision sublime, 100
The vision, that is for a time,
Though it tarry, wait; it is nigh;
In the end it will speak and not lie.

PART ONE

THE DIVINE TRAGEDY

THE FIRST PASSOVER

I

VOX CLAMANTIS

JOHN THE BAPTIST.

REPENT! repent! repent!
 For the kingdom of God is at hand,
 And all the land
 Full of the knowledge of the Lord
 shall be
 As the waters cover the sea,
 And encircle the continent!

Repent! repent! repent!
 For lo, the hour appointed,
 The hour so long foretold
 By the Prophets of old,
 Of the coming of the Anointed,
 The Messiah, the Paraclete,
 The Desire of the Nations, is nigh!
 He shall not strive nor cry,
 Nor his voice be heard in the street;
 Nor the bruised reed shall He break,
 Nor quench the smoking flax;
 And many of them that sleep
 In the dust of earth shall awake,
 On that great and terrible day,
 And the wicked shall wail and weep,
 And be blown like a smoke away,
 And be melted away like wax.
 Repent! repent! repent!

O Priest, and Pharisee,
 Who hath warned you to flee
 From the wrath that is to be?
 From the coming anguish and ire?
 The axe is laid at the root
 Of the trees, and every tree
 That bringeth not forth good fruit
 Is hewn down and cast into the
 fire!

Ye Scribes, why come ye hither?
 In the hour that is uncertain,
 In the day of anguish and trouble,
 He that stretcheth the heavens as a
 curtain
 And spreadeth them out as a tent,
 Shall blow upon you, and ye shall
 wither,

And the whirlwind shall take you
 away as stubble!
 Repent! repent! repent!

PRIEST.

Who art thou, O man of prayer!
 In raiment of camel's hair,
 Begirt with leathern thong,
 That here in the wilderness,
 With a cry as of one in distress,
 Preachest unto this throng?
 Art thou the Christ?

JOHN.

Priest of Jerusalem,
 In meekness and humbleness,
 I deny not, I confess
 I am not the Christ!

PRIEST.

What shall we say unto them
 That sent us here? Reveal
 Thy name, and naught conceal!
 Art thou Elias?

JOHN.

No!

PRIEST.

Art thou that Prophet, then,
 Of lamentation and woe,
 Who, as a symbol and sign
 Of impending wrath divine
 Upon unbelieving men,
 Shattered the vessel of clay
 In the Valley of Slaughter?

JOHN.

Nay.

I am not he thou namest!

PRIEST.

Who art thou, and what is the
 word
 That here thou proclaimest?

JOHN.

I am the voice of one
 Crying in the wilderness alone:
 Prepare ye the way of the Lord;
 Make his paths straight
 In the land that is desolate!

PRIEST.

If thou be not the Christ,
 Nor yet Elias, nor he

That, in sign of the things to be,
Shattered the vessel of clay
In the Valley of Slaughter,
Then declare unto us, and say
By what authority now
Baptizest thou ?

JOHN.

I indeed baptize you with water
Unto repentance; but He,
That cometh after me,
Is mightier than I and higher;
The latchet of whose shoes
I am not worthy to unloose;
He shall baptize you with fire,
And with the Holy Ghost!
Whose fan is in his hand;
He will purge to the uttermost
His floor, and garner his wheat,
But will burn the chaff in the brand 90
And fire of unquenchable heat!
Repent! repent! repent!

II

MOUNT QUARANTANIA

I

LUCIFER.

Not in the lightning's flash, nor in the
thunder,

80 Not in the tempest, nor the cloudy
storm,

Will I array my form;

But part invisible these boughs asun-
der,

And move and murmur, as the wind
upheaves

And whispers in the leaves.

Not as a terror and a desolation,

Not in my natural shape, inspiring
fear 100

And dread, will I appear;

But in soft tones of sweetness and persuasion,
A sound as of the fall of mountain streams,
Or voices heard in dreams.

He sitteth there in silence, worn and wasted
With famine, and uplifts his hollow eyes
To the un pitying skies ;
For forty days and nights he hath not tasted
Of food or drink, his parted lips are pale,
Surely his strength must fail. 110

Wherefore dost thou in penitential fasting
Waste and consume the beauty of thy youth ?
Ah, if thou be in truth
The Son of the Unnamed, the Everlasting,
Command these stones beneath thy feet to be
Changed into bread for thee !

CHRISTUS.

'T is written : Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by each word that from God's mouth proceedeth !

II

LUCIFER.

Too weak, alas ! too weak is the temptation
For one whose soul to nobler things aspires 120
Than sensual desires !
Ah, could I, by some sudden aberration,
Lead and delude to suicidal death
This Christ of Nazareth !

Unto the holy Temple on Moriah,
With its resplendent domes, and manifold
Bright pinnacles of gold,
Where they await thy coming, O Messiah !
Lo, I have brought thee ! Let thy glory here
Be manifest and clear. 130

Reveal thyself by royal act and gesture
Descending with the bright triumphant host
Of all the highest
Archangels, and about thee as a vesture
The shining clouds, and all thy splendours show
Unto the world below !

Cast thyself down, it is the hour appointed ;
And God hath given his angels charge and care
To keep thee and upbear
Upon their hands his only Son, the Anointed, 140
Lest he should dash his foot against a stone
And die, and be unknown.

CHRISTUS.

'T is written : Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God !

III

LUCIFER.

I cannot thus delude him to perdition !
But one temptation still remains untried,
The trial of his pride,
The thirst of power, the fever of ambition !
Surely by these a humble peasant's son
At last may be undone !

Above the yawning chasms and deep abysses, 150
Across the headlong torrents, I have brought
Thy footsteps, swift as thought ;
And from the highest of these precipices,
The Kingdoms of the world thine eyes behold,
Like a great map unrolled.

From far-off Lebanon, with cedars crested,
To where the waters of the Asphalt Lake
On its white pebbles break,
And the vast desert, silent, sand-invested,
These kingdoms all are mine, and thine shall be, 160
If thou wilt worship me !

CHRISTUS.

Get thee behind me, Satan! thou shalt
worship
The Lord thy God; Him only shalt
thou serve!

ANGELS MINISTRANT.

The sun goes down; the evening
shadows lengthen,
The fever and the struggle of the day
Abate and pass away;
Thine Angels Ministrant, we come to
strengthen
And comfort thee, and crown thee
with the palm,
The silence and the calm.

III

THE MARRIAGE IN CANA

THE MUSICIANS.

Rise up, my love, my fair one, 170
Rise up, and come away,
For lo! the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone,
The flowers appear on the earth,
The time of the singing of birds is
come,
And the voice of the turtle is heard
in our land.

THE BRIDEGROOM.

Sweetly the minstrels sing the Song
of Songs!
My heart runs forward with it, and I
say:
Oh set me as a seal upon thine heart,
And set me as a seal upon thine arm;
For love is strong as life, and strong
as death, 181
And cruel as the grave is jealousy!

THE MUSICIANS.

I sleep, but my heart awaketh;
'Tis the voice of my beloved
Who knocketh, saying: Open to me,
My sister, my love, my dove,
For my head is filled with dew,
My locks with the drops of the
night!

THE BRIDE.

Ah yes, I sleep, and yet my heart
awaketh.
It is the voice of my beloved who
knocks. 190

THE BRIDEGROOM.

O beautiful as Rebecca at the foun-
tain,
O beautiful as Ruth among the
sheaves!
O fairest among women! O unde-
filed!
Thou art all fair, my love, there's no
spot in thee!

THE MUSICIANS.

My beloved is white and ruddy,
The chiefest among ten thousand;
His locks are black as a raven,
His eyes are the eyes of doves,
Of doves by the rivers of water,
His lips are like unto lilies, 200
Dropping sweet-smelling myrrh.

ARCHITRICLINUS.

Who is that youth with the dark azure
eyes,
And hair, in color like unto the wine,
Parted upon his forehead, and behind
Falling in flowing locks?

PARANYMPHUS.

The Nazarene
Who preacheth to the poor in field
and village
The coming of God's Kingdom.

ARCHITRICLINUS.

How serene
His aspect is! manly yet womanly.

PARANYMPHUS.

Most beautiful among the sons of
men!
Oft known to weep, but never known
to laugh. 210

ARCHITRICLINUS.

And tell me, she with eyes of olive
tint,
And skin as fair as wheat, and pale
brown hair,
The woman at his side?

PARANYMPHUS.

His mother, Mary.

ARCHITRICLINUS.

And the tall figure standing close be-
hind them,
Clad all in white, with face and beard
like ashes,

. . . "Beautiful as Rebecca at the fountain"

As if he were Elias, the White Witness,
Come from his cave on Carmel to foretell
The end of all things ?

PARANYMPHUS.

That is Manahem
The Essenian, he who dwells among
the palms
Near the Dead Sea.

ARCHITRICLINUS.

He who foretold to Herod 220
He should one day be King ?

PARANYMPHUS.

The same.

ARCHITRICLINUS.

Then why
Doth he come here to sadden with his
presence
Our marriage feast, belonging to a
sect
Haters of women, and that taste not
wine ?

THE MUSICIANS.

My undefiled is but one,
The only one of her mother,

The choice of her that bare her;
The daughters saw and blessed her;
The queens and the concubines
praised her;
Saying, Lo! who is this 230
That looketh forth as the morning ?

MANAHÉM, *aside*.

The Ruler of the Feast is gazing at
me,
As if he asked, why is that old man
here
Among the revellers? And thou, the
Anointed !
Why art thou here? I see as in a
vision
A figure clothed in purple, crowned
with thorns;
I see a cross uplifted in the darkness,
And hear a cry of agony, that shall
echo
Forever and forever through the
world !

ARCHITRICLINUS.

Give us more wine. These goblets
are all empty. 240

MARY to CHRISTUS.

They have no wine!

CHRISTUS.

O woman, what have I
To do with thee? Mine hour is not
yet come.

MARY *to the servants.*

Whatever he shall say to you, that
do.

CHRISTUS.

Fill up these pots with water.

THE MUSICIANS.

Come, my belovèd,
Let us go forth into the field,
Let us lodge in the villages;
Let us get up early to the vine-
yards,
Let us see if the vine flourish,
Whether the tender grape appear,
And the pomegranates bud forth. ²⁵¹

CHRISTUS.

Draw out now
And bear unto the Ruler of the Feast.

MANAHEM, *aside.*

O thou, brought up among the Esse-
nians,
Nurtured in abstinence, taste not the
wine!
It is the poison of dragons from the
vineyards
Of Sodom, and the taste of death is in
it!

ARCHITRICLINUS *to the BRIDEGROOM.*

All men set forth good wine at the be-
ginning,
And when men have well drunk, that
which is worse;
But thou hast kept the good wine un-
til now.

MANAHEM, *aside.*

The things that have been and shall be
no more, ²⁶⁰
The things that are, and that hereafter
shall be,
The things that might have been, and
yet were not,
The fading twilight of great joys de-
parted,
The daybreak of great truths as yet
unrisen,
The intuition and the expectation

Of something, which, when come, is
not the same,
But only like its forecast in men's
dreams,

The longing, the delay, and the de-
light,

Sweeter for the delay; youth, hope,
love, death,

And disappointment which is also
death, ²⁷⁰

All these make up the sum of human
life;

A dream within a dream, a wind at
night

Howling across the desert in despair,
Seeking for something lost it cannot
find.

Fate or foreseeing, or whatever name
Men call it, matters not; what is to
be

Hath been fore-written in the thought
divine

From the beginning. None can hide
from it,

But it will find him out; nor run
from it,

But it o'ertaketh him! The Lord
hath said it. ²⁸⁰

THE BRIDEGROOM *to the BRIDE, on the
balcony.*

When Abraham went with Sarah into
Egypt,

The land was all illumined with her
beauty;

But thou dost make the very night it-
self

Brighter than day! Behold, in glori-
ous procession,

Crowding the threshold of the sky
above us,

The stars come forth to meet thee with
their lamps;

And the soft winds, the ambassadors
of flowers,

From neighboring gardens and from
fields unseen,

Come laden with odors unto thee, my
Queen!

THE MUSICIANS.

Awake, O north-wind, ²⁹⁰

And come, thou wind of the South.

Blow, blow upon my garden,

That the spices thereof may flow
out.

And crowned with sunshine as the
 Prince of Peace
 Walks the beloved Master, leading
 us,
 As Moses led our fathers in old times
 Out of the land of bondage! We have
 found
 Him of whom Moses and the Prophets
 wrote,
 Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.

NATHANAEL.

Can any good come out of Nazareth?
 Can this be the Messiah?

PHILIP.

Come and see.

NATHANAEL.

The summer sun grows hot: I am an-
 hungered.
 How cheerily the Sabbath-breaking
 quail

Pipes in the corn, and bids us to his
 Feast
 Of Wheat Sheaves! How the bearded,
 ripening ears
 Toss in the roofless temple of the air;
 As if the unseen hand of some High-
 Priest
 Waved them before Mount Tabor as
 an altar!
 It were no harm, if we should pluck
 and eat.

PHILIP.

How wonderful it is to walk abroad
 With the Good Master! Since the
 miracle
 He wrought at Cana, at the marriage
 feast,
 His fame hath gone abroad through
 all the land,
 And when we come to Nazareth, thou
 shalt see

How his own people will receive their
Prophet,
And hail him as Messiah! See, he
turns
And looks at thee.

CHRISTUS.

Behold an Israelite
In whom there is no guile.

NATHANAEL.

Whence knowest thou me? 320

CHRISTUS.

Before that Philip called thee, when
thou wast
Under the fig-tree, I beheld thee.

NATHANAEL.

Rabbi!
Thou art the Son of God, thou art the
King
Of Israel!

CHRISTUS.

Because I said I saw thee
Under the fig-tree, before Philip
called thee,
Believest thou? Thou shalt see
greater things.
Hereafter thou shalt see the heavens
unclosed,
The angels of God ascending and de-
scending
Upon the Son of Man!

PHARISEES, *passing*.

Hail, Rabbi!

CHRISTUS.

Hail!

PHARISEES.

Behold how thy disciples do a thing
Which is not lawful on the Sabbath-
day,
And thou forbiddest them not! 331

CHRISTUS.

Have ye not read
What David did when he anhungered
was,
And all they that were with him?
How he entered
Into the house of God, and ate the
shew-bread,
Which was not lawful, saving for the
priests?

Have ye not read, how on the Sab-
bath-days
The priests profane the Sabbath in the
Temple,
And yet are blameless? But I say to
you,
One in this place is greater than the
Temple! 340
And had ye known the meaning of the
words,
I will have mercy and not sacrifice,
The guiltless ye would not condemn.
The Sabbath
Was made for man, and not man for
the Sabbath.
Passes on with the disciples.

PHARISEES.

This is, alas! some poor demoniac
Wandering about the fields, and utter-
ing
His unintelligible blasphemies
Among the common people, who re-
ceive
As prophecies the words they compre-
hend not! 349
Deluded folk! The incomprehensible
Alone excites their wonder. There is
none
So visionary, or so void of sense,
But he will find a crowd to follow him!

V

NAZARETH

CHRISTUS, *reading in the Synagogue.*

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon
me.
He hath anointed me to preach good
tidings
Unto the poor; to heal the broken-
hearted;
To comfort those that mourn, and to
throw open
The prison doors of captives, and pro-
claim
The Year Acceptable of the Lord, our
God!

He closes the book and sits down.

A PHARISEE.

Who is this youth? He hath taken
the Teacher's seat! 36c
Will he instruct the Elders?

A PRIEST.

Fifty years
Have I been Priest here in the Syna-
gogue,
And never have I seen so young a
man
Sit in the Teacher's seat!

CHRISTUS.

Behold, to-day
This scripture is fulfilled. One is ap-
pointed
And hath been sent to them that
mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes, and
the oil
Of joy for mourning! They shall
build again
The old waste-places; and again raise
up
The former desolations, and repair 370
The cities that are wasted! As a bride-
groom
Decketh himself with ornaments; as a
bride
Adorneth herself with jewels, so the
Lord
Hath clothed me with the robe of
righteousness!

A PRIEST.

He speaks the Prophet's words; but
with an air
As if himself had been foreshadowed
in them!

CHRISTUS.

For Zion's sake I will not hold my
peace,
And for Jerusalem's sake I will not
rest
Until its righteousness be as a bright-
ness,
And its salvation as a lamp that burn-
eth! 380
Thou shalt be called no longer the For-
saken,
Nor any more thy land the Desolate.
The Lord hath sworn, by his right
hand hath sworn,
And by his arm of strength: I will no
more
Give to thine enemies thy corn as
meat;
The sons of strangers shall not drink
thy wine.

Go through, go through the gates!
Prepare a way
Unto the people! Gather out the
stones!
Lift up a standard for the people!

A PRIEST.

Ah!

These are seditious words!

CHRISTUS.

And they shall call them
The holy people; the redeemed of
God! 391
And thou, Jerusalem, shalt be called
Sought out,
A city not forsaken!

A PHARISEE.

Is not this
The carpenter Joseph's son? Is not
his mother
Called Mary? and his brethren and his
sisters
Are they not with us? Doth he make
himself
To be a Prophet?

CHRISTUS.

No man is a Prophet
In his own country, and among his
kin.
In his own house no Prophet is ac-
cepted.
I say to you, in the land of Israel 400
Were many widows in Elijah's day,
When for three years and more the
heavens were shut,
And a great famine was throughout
the land;
But unto no one was Elijah sent
Save to Sarepta, to a city of Sidon,
And to a woman there that was a
widow.
And many lepers were there in the
land
Of Israel, in the time of Eliseus
The Prophet, and yet none of them
was cleansed, 409
Save Naaman the Syrian!

A PRIEST.

Say no more!
Thou comest here into our Synagogue
And speakest to the Elders and the
Priests,

As if the very mantle of Elijah
Had fallen upon thee! Art thou not
ashamed?

A PHARISEE.

We want no Prophets here! Let him
be driven
From Synagogue and city! Let him
go
And prophesy to the Samaritans!

AN ELDER.

The world is changed. We Elders are
as nothing!
We are but yesterdays, that have no
part
Or portion in to-day! Dry leaves that
rustle, 420
That make a little sound, and then are
dust!

A PHARISEE.

A carpenter's apprentice! a mechanic,
Whom we have seen at work here in
the town
Day after day; a stripling without
learning,
Shall he pretend to unfold the Word
of God
To men grown old in study of the
Law?

CHRISTUS *is thrust out.*

VI

THE SEA OF GALILEE

PETER *and* ANDREW *mending their
nets.*

PETER.

Never was such a marvellous draught
of fishes
Heard of in Galilee! The market-
places
Both of Bethsaida and Capernaum
Are full of them! Yet we had toiled
all night 430
And taken nothing, when the Master
said:
Launch out into the deep, and cast
your nets;
And doing this, we caught such multi-
tudes,
Our nets like spiders' webs were
snapped asunder,

And with the draught we filled two
ships so full
That they began to sink. Then I
knelt down
Amazed, and said: O Lord, depart
from me,
I am a sinful man. And he made
answer:
Simon, fear not; henceforth thou shalt
catch men! 439
What was the meaning of those words?

ANDREW.

I know not.
But here is Philip, come from Naz-
areth.
He hath been with the Master. Tell
us, Philip,
What tidings dost thou bring?

PHILIP.

Most wonderful!
As we drew near to Nain, out of the
gate
Upon a bier was carried the dead
body
Of a young man, his mother's only
son,
And she a widow, who with lamenta-
tion
Bewailed her loss, and the much
people with her;
And when the Master saw her he was
filled
With pity; and he said to her: Weep
not! 450
And came and touched the bier, and
they that bare it
Stood still; and then he said: Young
man, arise!
And he that had been dead sat up, and
soon
Began to speak; and he delivered him
Unto his mother. And there came a
fear
On all the people, and they glorified
The Lord, and said, rejoicing: A
great Prophet
Is risen up among us! and the Lord
Hath visited his people!

PETER.

A great Prophet?
Ay, greater than a Prophet: greater
even 460
Than John the Baptist!

PHILIP.

Yet the Nazarenes
Rejected him.

PETER.

The Nazarenes are dogs!
As natural brute beasts, they growl at
things
They do not understand; and they
shall perish,
Utterly perish in their own corruption.
The Nazarenes are dogs!

PHILIP.

They drave him forth
Out of their Synagogue, out of their
city,
And would have cast him down a pre-
cipice,
But, passing through the midst of
them, he vanished
Out of their hands. 469

PETER.

Wells are they without water,

Clouds carried with a tempest, unto
whom
The mist of darkness is reserved for-
ever!

PHILIP.

Behold he cometh. There is one man
with him
I am amazed to see!

ANDREW.

What man is that?

PHILIP.

Judas Iscariot; he that cometh last,
Girt with a leathern apron. No one
knoweth
His history; but the rumor of him is
He had an unclean spirit in his youth.
It hath not left him yet.

CHRISTUS, *passing*.

Come unto me,
All ye that labor and are heavy
laden, 470

And I will give you rest! Come unto
me,
And take my yoke upon you and learn
of me,
For I am meek, and I am lowly in
heart,
And ye shall all find rest unto your
souls!

PHILIP.

Oh, there is something in that voice
that reaches
The innermost recesses of my spirit!
I feel that it might say unto the blind:
Receive your sight! and straightway
they would see!
I feel that it might say unto the dead,
Arise! and they would hear it and
obey!
Behold, he beckons to us!

CHRISTUS to PETER and ANDREW.

Follow me!

PETER.

Master, I will leave all and follow
thee.

VII

THE DEMONIAK OF GADARA

A GADARENE.

He hath escaped, hath plucked his
chains asunder,
And broken his fetters; always night
and day
Is in the mountains here, and in the
tombs,
Crying aloud, and cutting himself with
stones,
Exceeding fierce, so that no man can
tame him!

THE DEMONIAK *from above, unseen.*

O Aschmedai! O Aschmedai, have
pity!

A GADARENE.

Listen! It is his voice! Go warn the
people
Just landing from the lake!

THE DEMONIAK.

O Aschmedai!
Thou angel of the bottomless pit,
have pity!
It was enough to hurl King Solomon,

On whom be peace! two hundred
leagues away
Into the country, and to make him
scullion
In the kitchen of the King of Maschke-
men!
Why dost thou hurl me here among
these rocks,
And cut me with these stones?

A GADARENE.

He raves and mutters
He knows not what.

THE DEMONIAK, *appearing from a tomb
among the rocks.*

The wild cock Tarnegal
Singeth to me, and bids me to the
banquet,
Where all the Jews shall come; for
they have slain
Behemoth the great ox, who daily
cropped
A thousand hills for food, and at a
draught
Drank up the river Jordan, and have
slain
The huge Leviathan, and stretched
his skin
Upon the high walls of Jerusalem,
And made them shine from one end of
the world
Unto the other; and the fowl Bar-
juchne,
Whose outspread wings eclipse the
sun, and make
Midnight at noon o'er all the conti-
nents!
And we shall drink the wine of Para-
dise
From Adam's cellars.

A GADARENE.

O thou unclean spirit!

THE DEMONIAK, *hurling down a stone.*
This is the wonderful Barjuchne's
egg,
That fell out of her nest, and broke to
pieces
And swept away three hundred cedar-
trees,
And threescore villages! — Rabbi Eli-
ezer,
How thou didst sin there in that sea-
port town

When thou hadst carried safe thy
 chest of silver
 Over the seven rivers for her sake!
 I too have sinned beyond the reach of
 pardon.
 Ye hills and mountains, pray for
 mercy on me! 530
 Ye stars and planets, pray for mercy
 on me!
 Ye sun and moon, oh pray for mercy
 on me!

CHRISTUS and his disciples pass.

A GADARENE.

There is a man here of Decapolis,
 Who hath an unclean spirit; so that
 none
 Can pass this way. He lives among
 the tombs
 Up there upon the cliffs, and hurls
 down stones
 On those who pass beneath.

CHRISTUS.

Come out of him,
 Thou unclean spirit!

THE DEMONIAC.

What have I to do
 With thee, thou Son of God? Do not
 torment us.

CHRISTUS.

What is thy name?

THE DEMONIAC.

Legion; for we are many.
 Cain, the first murderer; and the
 King Belshazzar, 541
 And Evil Merodach of Babylon,
 And Admatha, the death-cloud, prince
 of Persia;
 And Aschmedai, the angel of the
 pit,
 And many other devils. We are
 Legion.
 Send us not forth beyond Decapolis;
 Command us not to go into the deep!
 There is a herd of swine here in the
 pastures,
 Let us go into them.

CHRISTUS.

Come out of him,
 Thou unclean spirit!

A GADARENE.

See, how stupefied
 How motionless he stands! He cries
 no more; 551
 He seems bewildered and in silence
 stares
 As one who, walking in his sleep,
 awakes
 And knows not where he is, and looks
 about him,
 And at his nakedness, and is ashamed.

THE DEMONIAC.

Why am I here alone among the
 tombs?
 What have they done to me, that I am
 naked?
 Ah, woe is me!

CHRISTUS.

Go home unto thy friends
 And tell them how great things the
 Lord hath done
 For thee, and how He had compassion
 on thee! 560

A SWINEHERD, *running*.

The herds! the herds! O most un-
 lucky day!
 They were all feeding quiet in the
 sun,
 When suddenly they started, and grew
 savage
 As the wild boars of Tabor, and to-
 gether
 Rushed down a precipice into the
 sea!
 They are all drowned!

PETER.

Thus righteously are punished
 The apostate Jews, that eat the flesh
 of swine,
 And broth of such abominable things!

GREEKS OF GADARA.

We sacrifice a sow unto Demeter
 At the beginning of harvest, and
 another 570
 To Dionysus at the vintage-time.
 Therefore we prize our herds of swine,
 and count them
 Not as unclean, but as things conse-
 crate
 To the immortal gods. O great ma-
 gician,

Depart out of our coasts ; let us alone,
We are afraid of thee.

PETER.

Let us depart;
For they that sanctify and purify
Themselves in gardens, eating flesh of
swine,
And the abomination, and the mouse,
Shall be consumed together, saith the
Lord!

580

VIII

TALITHA CUMI

JAIRUS *at the feet of* CHRISTUS.

O Master! I entreat thee! I implore
thee!
My daughter lieth at the point of
death;
I pray thee come and lay thy hands
upon her,
And she shall live!

CHRISTUS.

Who was it touched my garments?

SIMON PETER.

Thou seest the multitude that throng
and press thee,
And sayest thou: Who touched me?
'T was not I.

CHRISTUS.

Some one hath touched my garments;
I perceive
That virtue is gone out of me.

A WOMAN.

O Master!
Forgive me! For I said within my-
self,
If I so much as touch his garment's
hem,
I shall be whole.

590

CHRISTUS.

Be of good comfort, daughter!
Thy faith hath made thee whole.
Depart in peace.

A MESSENGER *from the house.*

Why troublest thou the Master?
Hearest thou not

The flute-players, and the voices of the
women
Singing their lamentation? She is
dead!

THE MINSTRELS AND MOURNERS.

We have girded ourselves with sack-
cloth!
We have covered our heads with
ashes!
For our young men die, and our
maidens
Swoon in the streets of the city;
And into their mother's bosom
They pour out their souls like water!

600

CHRISTUS, *going in.*

Give place. Why make ye this ado,
and weep?
She is not dead, but sleepeth.

THE MOTHER, *from within.*

Cruel Death!
To take away from me this tender
blossom!
To take away my dove, my lamb, my
darling!

THE MINSTRELS AND MOURNERS.

He hath led me and brought into dark-
ness,
Like the dead of old in dark places!
He hath bent his bow, and hath set
me
Apart as a mark for his arrow!
He hath covered himself with a
cloud,
That our prayer should not pass
through and reach him!

610

THE CROWD.

He stands beside her bed! He takes
her hand!
Listen, he speaks to her!

CHRISTUS, *within.*

Maiden, arise!

THE CROWD.

See, she obeys his voice! She stirs!
She lives!
Her mother holds her folded in her
arms!
O miracle of miracles! O marvel!

"Maiden, arise!"

IX

THE TOWER OF MAGDALA

MARY MAGDALENE.

Companionless, unsatisfied, forlorn,
I sit here in this lonely tower, and
look

Upon the lake below me, and the hills
That swoon with heat, and see as in
a vision

All my past life unroll itself before
me.

The princes and the merchants come
to me,

Merchants of Tyre and Princes of
Damascus,

And pass, and disappear, and are no
more;

But leave behind their merchandise
and jewels,

Their perfumes, and their gold, and
their disgust.

I loathe them, and the very memory of
them

Is unto me as thought of food to one
Cloyed with the luscious figs of Dal-
manutha!

What if hereafter, in the long here-
after

630

Of endless joy or pain, or joy in pain,
 It were my punishment to be with
 them
 Grown hideous and decrepit in their
 sins,
 And hear them say: Thou that hast
 brought us here,
 Be unto us as thou hast been of old!
 I look upon this raiment that I wear,
 These silks, and these embroideries,
 and they seem
 Only as cerements wrapped about my
 limbs!
 I look upon these rings thick set with
 pearls,
 And emerald and amethyst and jas-
 per,
 And they are burning coals upon my
 flesh!
 This serpent on my wrist becomes
 alive!

Away, thou viper! and away, ye
 garlands,
 Whose odors bring the swift remem-
 brance back
 Of the unhallowed revels in these
 chambers!
 But yesterday, — and yet it seems to
 me
 Something remote, like a pathetic
 song
 Sung long ago by minstrels in the
 street, —
 But yesterday, as from this tower I
 gazed,
 Over the olive and the walnut trees,
 Upon the lake and the white ships,
 and wondered
 Whither and whence they steered,
 and who was in them,
 A fisher's boat drew near the landing
 place

"Companionless, unsatisfied, forlorn,
 I sit here in this lonely tower"

Under the oleanders, and the people
 Came up from it, and passed beneath
 the tower,
 Close under me. In front of them, as
 leader,
 Walked one of royal aspect, clothed in
 white,
 Who lifted up his eyes, and looked at
 me,
 And all at once the air seemed filled
 and living
 With a mysterious power, that
 streamed from him, 660
 And overflowed me with an atmos-
 phere
 Of light and love. As one entranced
 I stood,
 And when I woke again, lo! he was
 gone;
 So that I said: Perhaps it is a dream.
 But from that very hour the seven de-
 mons
 That had their habitation in this
 body
 Which men call beautiful, departed
 from me!

This morning, when the first gleam of
 the dawn
 Made Lebanon a glory in the air,
 And all below was darkness, I beheld
 An angel, or a spirit glorified, 671
 With wind-tossed garments walking
 on the lake.
 The face I could not see, but I distin-
 guished
 The attitude and gesture, and I knew
 'T was he that healed me. And the
 gusty wind
 Brought to mine ears a voice, which
 seemed to say:
 Be of good cheer! 'T is I! Be not
 afraid!
 And from the darkness, scarcely heard,
 the answer:
 If it be thou, bid me come unto thee
 Upon the water! And the voice said:
 Come! 680
 And then I heard a cry of fear: Lord,
 save me!
 As of a drowning man. And then
 the voice:
 Why didst thou doubt, O thou of lit-
 tle faith!
 At this all vanished, and the wind
 was hushed,

And the great sun came up above the
 hills,
 And the swift-flying vapors hid them-
 selves
 In caverns among the rocks! Oh, I
 must find him
 And follow him, and be with him for-
 ever!

Thou box of alabaster, in whose walls
 The souls of flowers lie pent, the pre-
 cious balm 690
 And spikenard of Arabian farms, the
 spirits
 Of aromatic herbs, ethereal natures
 Nursed by the sun and dew, not all
 unworthy
 To bathe his consecrated feet, whose
 step
 Makes every threshold holy that he
 crosses;
 Let us go forth upon our pilgrimage,
 Thou and I only! Let us search for
 him
 Until we find him, and pour out our
 souls
 Before his feet, till all that's left of us
 Shall be the broken caskets that once
 held us! 700

X

THE HOUSE OF SIMON THE
PHARISEEA GUEST *at table.*

Are ye deceived? Have any of the
 Rulers
 Believed on him? or do they know in-
 deed
 This man to be the very Christ? How-
 beit
 We know whence this man is, but
 when the Christ
 Shall come, none knoweth whence he
 is.

CHRISTUS.

Whereunto shall I liken, then, the
 men
 Of this generation? and what are
 they like?
 They are like children sitting in the
 markets,
 And calling unto one another, saying:

We have piped unto you, and ye have
not danced ; 710
We have mourned unto you, and ye
have not wept !
This say I unto you, for John the
Baptist
Came neither eating bread nor drink-
ing wine ;
Ye say he hath a devil. The Son of
Man
Eating and drinking cometh, and ye
say :
Behold a gluttonous man, and a wine-
bibber ;
Behold a friend of publicans and sin-
ners !

A GUEST *aside* to SIMON.

Who is that woman yonder, gliding in
So silently behind him ?

SIMON.

It is Mary,
Who dwelleth in the Tower of Mag-
dala. 720

THE GUEST.

See, how she kneels there weeping,
and her tears
Fall on his feet ; and her long, golden
hair
Waves to and fro and wipes them dry
again.
And now she kissethem, and from a box
Of alabaster is anointing them
With precious ointment, filling all the
house
With its sweet odor !

SIMON, *aside*.

Oh, this man, forsooth,
Were he indeed a Prophet, would
have known
Who and what manner of woman this
may be
That toucheth him ! would know she
is a sinner ! 730

CHRISTUS.

Simon, somewhat have I to say to
thee.

SIMON.

Master, say on.

CHRISTUS.

A certain creditor
Had once two debtors ; and the one
of them

Owed him five hundred pence ; the
other, fifty.
They having naught to pay withal, he
frankly
Forgave them both. Now tell me
which of them
Will love him most ?

SIMON.

He, I suppose, to whom
He most forgave.

CHRISTUS.

Yea, thou hast rightly judged.
Seest thou this woman ? When thine
house I entered,
Thou gavest me no water for my
feet. 740
But she hath washed them with her
tears, and wiped them
With her own hair. Thou gavest me
no kiss ;
This woman hath not ceased, since I
came in,
To kiss my feet. My head with oil
didst thou
Anoint not ; but this woman hath
anointed
My feet with ointment. Hence I say
to thee,
Her sins, which have been many, are
forgiven,
For she loved much.

THE GUESTS.

Oh, who, then, is this man
That pardoneth also sins without
atonement ?

CHRISTUS.

Woman, thy faith hath saved thee !
Go in peace ! 750

THE SECOND PASSOVER

I

BEFORE THE GATES OF MACHÆRUS

MANAHÉM.

WELCOME, O wilderness, and wel-
come, night
And solitude, and ye swift-flying stars
That drift with golden sands the bar-
ren heavens,

Welcome once more! The Angels of
the Wind
Hasten across the desert to receive me;
And sweeter than men's voices are to
me
The voices of these solitudes; the
sound
Of unseen rivulets, and the far-off cry
Of bitterns in the reeds of water-pools.
And lo! above me, like the Prophet's
arrow¹⁰
Shot from the eastern window, high
in air
The clamorous cranes go singing
through the night.
O ye mysterious pilgrims of the air,
Would I had wings that I might follow
you!

I look forth from these mountains, and
behold
The omnipotent and omnipresent night,
Mysterious as the future and the fate
That hangs o'er all men's lives! I see
beneath me
The desert stretching to the Dead Sea
shore,
And westward, faint and far away, the
glimmer
Of torches on Mount Olivet, announ-
cing
The rising of the Moon of Passover.
Like a great cross it seems, on which
suspended,
With head bowed down in agony, I see
A human figure! Hide, O merciful
heaven,
The awful apparition from my sight!
And thou, Machærus, lifting high and
black
Thy dreadful walls against the rising
moon,
Haunted by demons and by appari-
tions,
Lilith, and Jezerhara, and Bedargon,³⁰
How grim thou showest in the uncer-
tain light,
A palace and a prison, where King
Herod
Feasts with Herodias, while the Bap-
tist John
Fasts, and consumes his unavailing
life!
And in thy court-yard grows the un-
tithed rue,

Huge as the olives of Gethsemane,
And ancient as the terebinth of Hebron,
Coeval with the world. Would that
its leaves
Medicinal could purge thee of the
demons
That now possess thee, and the cun-
ning fox⁴⁰
That burrows in thy walls, contriving
mischief!

Music is heard from within.

Angels of God! Sandalphon, thou that
weavest
The prayers of men into immortal gar-
lands,
And thou, Metatron, who dost gather
up
Their songs, and bear them to the
gates of heaven,
Now gather up together in your hands
The prayers that fill this prison, and
the songs
That echo from the ceiling of this
palace,
And lay them side by side before God's
feet!

He enters the castle.

II

HEROD'S BANQUET-HALL

MANAHEM.

Thou hast sent for me, O King, and I
am here.⁵⁰

HEROD.

Who art thou?

MANAHEM.

Manahem, the Essenian.

HEROD.

I recognize thy features, but what
mean
These torn and faded garments? On
thy road
Have demons crowded thee, and
rubbed against thee,
And given thee weary knees? A cup
of wine!

MANAHEM.

The Essenians drink no wine.

"Thou hast sent for me, O King, and I am here"

<p>HEROD. What wilt thou, then?</p> <p>MANAHEN. Nothing.</p> <p>HEROD. Not even a cup of water?</p> <p>MANAHEN. Nothing.</p> <p>Why hast thou sent for me?</p> <p>HEROD. Dost thou remember One day when I, a schoolboy in the streets Of the great city, met thee on my way To school, and thou didst say to me: Hereafter 61 Thou shalt be king?</p> <p>MANAHEN. Yea, I remember it.</p> <p>HEROD. Thinking thou didst not know me, I replied: I am of humble birth; whereat thou, smiling,</p>	<p>Didst smite me with thy hand, and saidst again: Thou shalt be King; and let the friendly blows That Manahem hath given thee on this day Remind thee of the fickleness of for- tune.</p> <p>MANAHEN. What more?</p> <p>HEROD. No more.</p> <p>MANAHEN. Yea, for I said to thee: It shall be well with thee if thou love justice 70 And clemency towards thy fellow- men. Hast thou done this, O King?</p> <p>HEROD. Go, ask my people.</p> <p>MANAHEN. And then, foreseeing all thy life, I added:</p>
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But these thou wilt forget ; and at the
end
Of life the Lord will punish thee.

HEROD.

The end!
When will that come ? For this I sent
to thee.
How long shall I still reign ? Thou
dost not answer !
Speak ! shall I reign ten years ?

MANAHEM.

Thou shalt reign twenty,
Nay, thirty years. I cannot name the
end.

HEROD.

Thirty ? I thank thee, good Essen-
ian !
This is my birthday, and a happier
one
Was never mine. We hold a banquet
here.
See, yonder are Herodias and her
daughter.

MANAHEM, *aside*.

'Tis said that devils sometimes take
the shape
Of ministering angels, clothed with
air,
That they may be inhabitants of
earth,
And lead man to destruction. Such
are these.

HEROD.

Knowest thou John the Baptist ?

MANAHEM.

Yea, I know him ;
Who knows him not ?

HEROD.

Know, then, this John the Baptist
Said that it was not lawful I should
marry
My brother Philip's wife, and John⁹⁰
the Baptist
Is here in prison. In my father's
time
Matthias Margaloth was put to death
For tearing the golden eagle from its
station
Above the Temple Gate, — a slighter
crime

Than John is guilty of. These things
are warnings
To intermeddlers not to play with
eagles,
Living or dead. I think the Esseni-
ans
Are wiser, or more wary, are they
not ?

MANAHEM.

The Essenians do not marry.

HEROD.

Thou hast given¹⁰⁰
My words a meaning foreign to my
thought.

MANAHEM.

Let me go hence, O King !

HEROD.

Stay yet awhile,
And see the daughter of Herodias
dance.
Cleopatra of Jerusalem, my mother,
In her best days, was not more beau-
tiful.

Music. THE DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS
dances.

HEROD.

Oh, what was Miriam dancing with
her timbrel,
Compared to this one ?

MANAHEM, *aside*.

O thou Angel of Death,
Dancing at funerals among the wo-
men,
When men bear out the dead ! The
air is hot
And stifles me ! Oh for a breath of
air !
Bid me depart, O King !¹¹⁰

HEROD.

Not yet. Come hither,
Salome, thou enchantress ! Ask of
me
Whate'er thou wilt ; and even unto
the half
Of all my kingdom, I will give it
thee,
As the Lord liveth !

DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS, *kneeling*.

Give me here the head
Of John the Baptist on this silver
charger!

HEROD.

Not that, dear child. I dare not; for
the people
Regard John as a prophet.

DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS.

Thou hast sworn it.

HEROD.

For mine oath's sake, then. Send
unto the prison;
Let him die quickly. Oh, accursèd oath!

MANAHEM.

Bid me depart, O King!

HEROD.

Good Manahem,
Give me thy hand. I love the Essen-
ians.

He's gone and hears me not! The
guests are dumb,
Awaiting the pale face, the silent
witness.

The lamps flare; and the curtains of
the doorways

Wave to and fro as if a ghost were
passing!

Strengthen my heart, red wine of
Ascalon!

III

UNDER THE WALLS OF MACHÆRUS

MANAHEM, *rushing out*.

Away from this Palace of sin!
The demons, the terrible powers
Of the air, that haunt its towers
And hide in its water-spouts,
Deafen me with the din
Of their laughter and their shouts
For the crimes that are done within!

Sink back into the earth,
Or vanish into the air,
Thou castle of despair!
Let it all be but a dream
Of the things of monstrous birth,
Of the things that only seem!

White Angel of the Moon,
Onafiel! be my guide
Out of this hateful place
Of sin and death, nor hide
In yon black cloud too soon
Thy pale and tranquil face!

A trumpet is blown from the walls.

Hark! hark! It is the breath
Of the trump of doom and death,
From the battlements overhead
Like a burden of sorrow cast
On the midnight and the blast,
A wailing for the dead,
That the gusts drop and uplift!
O Herod, thy vengeance is swift!
O Herodias, thou hast been
The demon, the evil thing,
That in place of Esther the Queen,
In place of the lawful bride,
Hast lain at night by the side
Of Ahasuerus the king!

The trumpet again.

The Prophet of God is dead!
At a drunken monarch's call,
At a dancing-woman's beck,
They have severed that stubborn neck
And into the banquet-hall
Are bearing the ghastly head!

A body is thrown from the tower.

A torch of lurid red
Lights the window with its glow;
And a white mass as of snow
Is hurled into the abyss
Of the black precipice,
That yawns for it below!
O hand of the Most High,
O hand of Adonai!
Bury it, hide it away
From the birds and beasts of prey,
And the eyes of the homicide,
More pitiless than they,
As thou didst bury of yore
The body of him that died
On the mountain of Peor!
Even now I behold a sign,
A threatening of wrath divine,
A watery, wandering star,
Through whose streaming hair, and
the white
Unfolding garments of light,
That trail behind it afar,
The constellations shine!
And the whiteness and brightness ap-
pear

Like the Angel bearing the Seer 190
By the hair of his head, in the
might

And rush of his vehement flight.
And I listen until I hear
From fathomless depths of the sky
The voice of his prophecy
Sounding louder and more near!

Malediction! malediction!
May the lightnings of heaven fall
On palace and prison wall,
And their desolation be 200
As the day of fear and affliction,
As the day of anguish and ire,
With the burning and fuel of fire,
In the Valley of the Sea!

IV

NICODEMUS AT NIGHT

NICODEMUS.

The streets are silent. The dark
houses seem
Like sepulchres, in which the sleepers
lie
Wrapped in their shrouds, and for the
moment dead.
The lamps are all extinguished; only
one
Burns steadily, and from the door its
light
Lies like a shining gate across the
street. 210

"Ah, should this be at last
The long-expected Christ!"

He waits for me. Ah, should this be
at last
The long-expected Christ! I see him
there
Sitting alone, deep-buried in his
thought,
As if the weight of all the world were
resting
Upon him, and thus bowed him down.
O Rabbi,
We know thou art a Teacher come
from God,
For no man can perform the miracles
'Thou dost perform, except the Lord
be with him.
Thou art a Prophet, sent here to pro-
claim
The Kingdom of the Lord. Behold in
me
A Ruler of the Jews, who long have
waited
The coming of that kingdom. Tell
me of it.

CHRISTUS.

Verily, verily I say unto thee,
Except a man be born again, he can-
not
Behold the Kingdom of God!

NICODEMUS.

Be born again?
How can a man be born when he is
old?
Say, can he enter for a second time
Into his mother's womb, and so be
born?

CHRISTUS.

Verily I say unto thee, except
A man be born of water and the
spirit,
He cannot enter into the Kingdom of
God.
For that which of the flesh is born, is
flesh;
And that which of the spirit is born,
is spirit.

NICODEMUS.

We Israelites from the Primeval Man
Adam Ahelion derive our bodies;
Our souls are breathings of the Holy
Ghost.
No more than this we know, or need
to know.

CHRISTUS.

Then marvel not, that I said unto
thee
Ye must be born again.

NICODEMUS.

The mystery
Of birth and death we cannot compre-
hend.

CHRISTUS.

The wind bloweth where it listeth,
and we hear
The sound thereof, but know not
whence it cometh,
Nor whither it goeth. So is every one
Born of the spirit!

NICODEMUS, *aside*.

How can these things be?
He seems to speak of some vague
realm of shadows,
Some unsubstantial kingdom of the
air!
It is not this the Jews are waiting for,
Nor can this be the Christ, the Son of
David,
Who shall deliver us!

CHRISTUS.

Art thou a master
Of Israel, and knowest not these
things?
We speak that we do know, and testify
That we have seen, and ye will not re-
ceive
Our witness. If I tell you earthly
things,
And ye believe not, how shall ye be-
lieve,
If I should tell you of things heavenly?
And no man hath ascended up to hea-
ven,
But He alone that first came down
from heaven,
Even the Son of Man which is in hea-
ven!

NICODEMUS, *aside*.

This is a dreamer of dreams; a vision-
ary,
Whose brain is overtaken, until he
deems
The unseen world to be a thing sub-
stantial,
And this we live in, an unreal vision;

And yet his presence fascinates and
fills me
With wonder, and I feel myself ex-
alted
Into a higher region, and become
Myself in part a dreamer of his dreams,
A seer of his visions!

CHRISTUS.

And as Moses
Uplifted the serpent in the wilderness,
So must the Son of Man be lifted up;
That whosoever shall believe in Him
Shall perish not, but have eternal life.
He that believes in Him is not con-
demned;
He that believes not, is condemned
already.

NICODEMUS, *aside*.

He speaketh like a Prophet of the
Lord!

CHRISTUS.

This is the condemnation; that the
light
Is come into the world, and men loved
darkness
Rather than light, because their deeds
are evil!

NICODEMUS, *aside*.

Of me he speaketh! He reproveth
me,
Because I come by night to question
him!

CHRISTUS.

For every one that doeth evil deeds
Hateth the light, nor cometh to the
light,
Lest he should be reprov'd.

NICODEMUS, *aside*.

Alas, how truly
He readeth what is passing in my
heart!

CHRISTUS.

But he that doeth truth comes to the
light,
So that his deeds may be made mani-
fest,
That they are wrought in God.

NICODEMUS.

Alas! alas!

V

BLIND BARTIMEUS

BARTIMEUS.

Be not impatient, Chilion; it is plea-
sant
To sit here in the shadow of the walls
Under the palms, and hear the hum of
bees,
And rumor of voices passing to and
fro,
And drowsy bells of caravans on their
way
To Sidon or Damascus. This is still
The City of Palms, and yet the walls
thou seest
Are not the old walls, not the walls
where Rahab
Hid the two spies, and let them down
by cords
Out of the window, when the gates
were shut,
And it was dark. Those walls were
overthrown
When Joshua's army shouted, and
the priests
Blew with their seven trumpets.

CHILION.

When was that?

BARTIMEUS.

O my sweet rose of Jericho, I know
not.
Hundreds of years ago. And over
there
Beyond the river, the great prophet
Elijah
Was taken by a whirlwind up to hea-
ven
In chariot of fire, with fiery horses.
That is the plain of Moab; and be-
yond it
Rise the blue summits of Mount
Abarim,
Nebo and Pisgah and Peor, where
Moses
Died, whom the Lord knew face to
face, and whom
He buried in a valley, and no man
Knows of his sepulchre unto this day.

CHILION.

Would thou couldst see these places,
as I see them.

BARTIMEUS.

I have not seen a glimmer of the
light
Since thou wast born. I never saw
thy face,
And yet I seem to see it; and one
day
Perhaps shall see it; for there is a
Prophet
In Galilee, the Messiah, the Son of
David,
Who heals the blind, if I could only
find him.
I hear the sound of many feet ap-
proaching,
And voices, like the murmur of a
crowd!
What seest thou?

CHILION.

A young man clad in white ³²⁰
Is coming through the gateway, and
a crowd
Of people follow.

BARTIMEUS.

Can it be the Prophet!
O neighbors, tell me who it is that
passes?

ONE OF THE CROWD.

Jesus of Nazareth.

BARTIMEUS, *crying*.

O Son of David!
Have mercy on me!

MANY OF THE CROWD.

Peace, Blind Bartimeus!
Do not disturb the Master.

BARTIMEUS, *crying more vehemently*.

Son of David,
Have mercy on me!

ONE OF THE CROWD.

See, the Master stops.
Be of good comfort; rise, He calleth
thee!

BARTIMEUS, *casting away his cloak*.
Chilion! good neighbors! lead me on.

CHRISTUS.

What wilt thou
That I should do to thee?

BARTIMEUS.

Good Lord! my sight — ³³⁰
That I receive my sight!

CHRISTUS.

Receive thy sight!
Thy faith hath made thee whole!

THE CROWD.

He sees again!

CHRISTUS *passes on*. *The crowd gathers
round BARTIMEUS*.

BARTIMEUS.

I see again; but sight bewilders me!
Like a remembered dream, familiar
things
Come back to me. I see the tender
sky
Above me, see the trees, the city
walls,
And the old gateway, through whose
echoing arch
I groped so many years; and you, my
neighbors;
But know you by your friendly voices
only.
How beautiful the world is! and how
wide!
Oh, I am miles away, if I but look! ³⁴⁰
Where art thou, Chilion?

CHILION.

Father, I am here.

BARTIMEUS.

Oh let me gaze upon thy face, dear
child!
For I have only seen thee with my
hands!
How beautiful thou art! I should
have known thee;
Thou hast her eyes whom we shall see
hereafter!
O God of Abraham! Elion! Adonai!
Who art thyself a Father, pardon me
If for a moment I have thee post-
poned
To the affections and the thoughts of
earth, ³⁵⁰
Thee, and the adoration that I owe
thee,
When by thy power alone these dark
ened eyes
Have been unsealed again to see thy
light!

"Good Lord! my sight—
That I receive my sight!"

VI

JACOB'S WELL

A SAMARITAN WOMAN.

The sun is hot; and the dry east-wind
blowing
Fills all the air with dust. The birds
are silent;
Even the little fieldfares in the corn
No longer twitter; only the grass-
hoppers
Sing their incessant song of sun and
summer.
I wonder who those strangers were I
met
Going into the city? Galileans 360
They seemed to me in speaking, when
they asked
The short way to the market-place.
Perhaps
They are fishermen from the lake; or
travellers,
Looking to find the inn. And here is
some one

Sitting beside the well; another
stranger;
A Galilean also by his looks.
What can so many Jews be doing
here
Together in Samaria? Are they go-
ing
Up to Jerusalem to the Passover? 369
Our Passover is better here at Sychem,
For here is Ebal; here is Gerizim,
The mountain where our father Abra-
ham
Went up to offer Isaac; here the
tomb
Of Joseph, — for they brought his
bones from Egypt
And buried them in this land, and it
is holy.

CHRISTUS.

Give me to drink.

SAMARITAN WOMAN.

How can it be that thou,
Being a Jew, askest to drink of me

Which am a woman of Samaria?
 You Jews despise us; have no deal-
 ings with us;
 Make us a byword; call us in deri-
 sion
 The silly folk of Sychar. Sir, how is ³⁸⁰
 it
 Thou askest drink of me?

CHRISTUS.

If thou hadst known
 The gift of God, and who it is that
 sayeth
 Give me to drink, thou wouldst have
 asked of Him;
 He would have given thee the living
 water.

SAMARITAN WOMAN.

Sir, thou hast naught to draw with,
 and the well
 Is deep! Whence hast thou living
 water?
 Say, art thou greater than our father
 Jacob,
 Which gave this well to us, and drank
 thereof
 Himself, and all his children and his
 cattle? ³⁹⁰

CHRISTUS.

Ah, whosoever drinketh of this water
 Shall thirst again; but whosoever
 drinketh
 The water I shall give him shall not
 thirst
 Forevermore, for it shall be within
 him
 A well of living water, springing up
 Into life everlasting.

SAMARITAN WOMAN.

Every day
 I must go to and fro, in heat and
 cold,
 And I am weary. Give me of this
 water,
 That I may thirst not, nor come here
 to draw.

CHRISTUS.

Go call thy husband, woman, and
 come hither. ⁴⁰⁰

SAMARITAN WOMAN.

I have no husband, Sir.

CHRISTUS.

Thou hast well said
 I have no husband. Thou hast had
 five husbands;
 And he whom now thou hast is not
 thy husband.

SAMARITAN WOMAN.

Surely thou art a Prophet, for thou
 readest
 The hidden things of life! Our fa-
 thers worshipped
 Upon this mountain Gerizim; and ye
 say
 The only place in which men ought
 to worship
 Is at Jerusalem.

CHRISTUS.

Believe me, woman,
 The hour is coming, when ye neither
 shall
 Upon this mount, nor at Jerusalem, ⁴¹⁰
 Worship the Father; for the hour is
 coming,
 And is now come, when the true wor-
 shippers
 Shall worship the Father in spirit and
 in truth!
 The Father seeketh such to worship
 Him.
 God is a spirit; and they that worship
 Him
 Must worship Him in spirit and in
 truth.

SAMARITAN WOMAN.

Master, I know that the Messiah com-
 eth,
 Which is called Christ; and He will
 tell us all things.

CHRISTUS.

I that speak unto thee am He!

THE DISCIPLES, *returning.*

Behold,
 The Master sitting by the well, and
 talking ⁴²⁰
 With a Samaritan woman! With a
 woman
 Of Sychar, the silly people, always
 boasting
 Of their Mount Ebal, and Mount Geri-
 zim,
 Their Everlasting Mountain, which
 they think

Higher and holier than our Mount Mo-
riah!

Why, once upon the Feast of the New
Moon,

When our great Sanhedrim of Jeru-
salem

Had all its watch-fires kindled on the

CHRISTUS.

I have food to eat

Ye know not of.

THE DISCIPLES, *to each other.*

Hath any man been here,

And brought Him aught to eat, while
we were gone? 439

CHRISTUS.

The food I speak of is to do the will
Of Him that sent me, and to finish his
work.

Do ye not say, Lo! there are yet four
months

And cometh harvest? I say unto
you,

Lift up your eyes, and look upon the
fields,

For they are white already unto har-
vest!

VII

THE COASTS OF CÆSAREA PHILIPPI

CHRISTUS, *going up the mountain.*

Who do the people say I am?

JOHN.

Some say
That thou art John the Baptist; some,
Elias;
And others Jeremiah.

JAMES.

Or that one
Of the old Prophets is arisen again. 449

CHRISTUS.

But who say ye I am?

PETER.

Thou art the Christ!
Thou art the Son of God!

CHRISTUS.

Blessed art thou,
Simon Barjona! Flesh and blood hath
not

Revealed it unto thee, but even my
Father,

Which is in Heaven. And I say unto
thee

That thou art Peter; and upon this
rock

I build my Church, and all the gates
of Hell

Shall not prevail against it. But take
heed

Ye tell to no man that I am the Christ.

For I must go up to Jerusalem,
And suffer many things, and be re-
jected 460

Of the Chief Priests, and of the Scribes
and Elders,

And must be crucified, and the third
day

Shall rise again!

PETER.

Be it far from thee, Lord!
This shall not be!

CHRISTUS.

Get thee behind me, Satan!
Thou savorest not the things that be
of God,

But those that be of men! If any
will

Come after me, let him deny himself,
And daily take his cross, and follow
me.

For whosoever will save his life shall
lose it,

And whosoever will lose his life shall
find it. 470

For wherein shall a man be profited
If he shall gain the whole world, and
shall lose

Himself or be a castaway?

JAMES, *after a long pause.*

Why doth
The Master lead us up into this moun-
tain?

PETER.

He goeth up to pray.

JOHN.

See, where He standeth
Above us on the summit of the hill!
His face shines as the sun! and all his
raiment

Exceeding white as snow, so as no
fuller

On earth can white them! He is not
alone;

There are two with Him there; two
men of old, 480

Their white beards blowing on the
mountain air,
Are talking with him.

JAMES.

I am sore afraid!

PETER.

Who and whence are they ?

JOHN.

Moses and Elias !

PETER.

O Master ! it is good for us to be
here !If thou wilt, let us make three taber-
nacles ;

For thee one, and for Moses and Elias !

JOHN.

Behold a bright cloud sailing in the
sun !It overshadows us. A golden mist
Now hides them from us, and envelops
usAnd all the mountain in a luminous
shadow !I see no more. The nearest rocks are
hidden. ⁴⁹⁰VOICE *from the cloud.*Lo ! this is my belovèd Son ! Hear
Him !

PETER.

It is the voice of God. He speaketh
to us,As from the burning bush He spake to
Moses !

JOHN.

The cloud-wreaths roll away. The
veil is lifted ;We see again. Behold ! He is alone.
It was a vision that our eyes beheld,
And it hath vanished into the unseen.CHRISTUS, *coming down from the moun-
tain.*I charge ye, tell the vision unto no
one,Till the Son of Man be risen from the
dead ! ⁵⁰⁰PETER, *aside.*Again He speaks of it ! What can it
mean,

This rising from the dead ?

JAMES.

Why say the Scribes
Elias must first come ?

CHRISTUS.

He cometh first,
Restoring all things. But I say to
you,

That this Elias is already come.

They knew him not, but have done
unto himWhate'er they listed, as is written of
him.PETER, *aside.*It is of John the Baptist He is speak-
ing.

JAMES.

As we descend, see, at the mountain's
foot,A crowd of people ; coming, going,
throngingRound the disciples, that we left be-
hind us, ⁵¹⁰Seeming impatient, that we stay so
long.

PETER.

It is some blind man, or some para-
lyticThat waits the Master's coming to be
healed.

JAMES.

I see a boy, who struggles and de-
means him

As if an unclean spirit tormented him !

A CERTAIN MAN, *running forward.*Lord ! I beseech thee, look upon my
son.He is mine only child ; a lunatic,
And sorely vexed ; for oftentimes he
fallethInto the fire and oft into the water. ⁵²⁰Wherever the dumb spirit taketh him
He teareth him. He gnasheth with
his teeth,And pines away. I spake to thy dis-
ciplesThat they should cast him out, and
they could not.

CHRISTUS.

O faithless generation and perverse !
How long shall I be with you, and
suffer you ?

Bring thy son hither.

BYSTANDERS.

How the unclean spirit
Seizes the boy, and tortures him with
pain!
He falleth to the ground and wallows,
foaming!
He cannot live. 529

CHRISTUS.

How long is it ago
Since this came unto him?

THE FATHER.

Even of a child.
Oh, have compassion on us, Lord, and
help us,
If thou canst help us.

CHRISTUS.

If thou canst believe.
For unto him that verily believeth,
All things are possible.

THE FATHER.

Lord, I believe!
Help thou mine unbelief!

CHRISTUS.

Dumb and deaf spirit,
Come out of him, I charge thee, and
no more
Enter thou into him!
*The boy utters a loud cry of pain, and
then lies still.*

BYSTANDERS.

How motionless
He lieth there. No life is left in him.
His eyes are like a blind man's, that
see not. 540
The boy is dead!

OTHERS.

Behold! the Master stoops,
And takes him by the hand, and lifts
him up.
He is not dead.

DISCIPLES.

But one word from those lips.
But one touch of that hand, and he is
healed!
Ah, why could we not do it?

THE FATHER.

My poor child!
Now thou art mine again. The un-
clean spirit

Shall never more torment thee! Look
at me!
Speak unto me! Say that thou know-
est me!

DISCIPLES to CHRISTUS, *departing.*

Good Master, tell us, for what reason
was it
We could not cast him out? 550

CHRISTUS.

Because of your unbelief!

VIII

THE YOUNG RULER

CHRISTUS.

Two men went up into the temple to
pray.
The one was a self-righteous Pharisee,
The other a Publican. And the Phar-
isee
Stood and prayed thus within himself!
O God,
I thank thee I am not as other men,
Extortioners, unjust, adulterers,
Or even as this Publican. I fast
Twice in the week, and also I give
tithes
Of all that I possess! The Publican,
Standing afar off, would not lift so
much 560
Even as his eyes to heaven, but smote
his breast,
Saying: God be merciful to me a
sinner!
I tell you that this man went to his
house
More justified than the other. Every
one
That doth exalt himself shall be
abased,
And he that humbleth himself shall be
exalted!

CHILDREN, *among themselves.*

Let us go nearer! He is telling stories!
Let us go listen to them.

AN OLD JEW.

Children, children!
What are ye doing here? Why do ye
crowd us?
It was such little vagabonds as you, 570

" And come, take up thy cross, and follow me "

That followed Elisha, mocking him
and crying:
Go up, thou bald-head ! But the bears
— the bears
Came out of the wood, and tare them !

A MOTHER.

Speak not thus !
We brought them here, that He might
lay his hands
On them, and bless them.

CHRISTUS.

Suffer little children
To come unto me, and forbid them
not ;
Of such is the kingdom of heaven ;
and their angels
Look always on my Father's face.
Takes them in his arms and blesses them.

A YOUNG RULER, *running.*

Good Master !

What good thing shall I do, that I
may have
Eternal life ?

579

CHRISTUS.

Why callest thou me good ?
There is none good but one, and that
is God.
If thou wilt enter into life eternal
Keep the commandments.

YOUNG RULER.

Which of them ?

CHRISTUS.

Thou shalt not
Commit adultery ; thou shalt not kill ;
Thou shalt not steal ; thou shalt not
bear false witness ;
Honor thy father and thy mother ; and
love
Thy neighbor as thyself.

YOUNG RULER.

From my youth up
All these things have I kept. What
lack I yet?

JOHN.

With what divine compassion in his
eyes
The Master looks upon this eager
youth, 590
As if He loved him!

CHRISTUS.

Wouldst thou perfect be,
Sell all thou hast, and give it to the
poor,
And come, take up thy cross, and fol-
low me,
And thou shalt have thy treasure in
the heavens.

JOHN.

Behold, how sorrowful he turns away!

CHRISTUS.

Children! how hard it is for them that
trust
In riches to enter into the kingdom of
God!
'Tis easier for a camel to go through
A needle's eye, than for the rich to
enter 599
The kingdom of God!

JOHN.

Ah, who then can be saved?

CHRISTUS.

With men this is indeed impossible,
But unto God all things are possible!

PETER.

Behold, we have left all, and followed
thee.
What shall we have therefor?

CHRISTUS.

Eternal life.

IX

AT BETHANY

MARTHA *busy about household affairs.*
MARY *sitting at the feet of* CHRISTUS.

MARTHA.

She sitteth idly at the Master's feet,
And troubles not herself with house-
hold cares.

'T is the old story. When a guest ar-
rives
She gives up all to be with him;
while I
Must be the drudge, make ready the
guest-chamber,
Prepare the food, set everything in
order, 610
And see that naught is wanting in the
house.
She shows her love by words, and I
by works.

MARY.

O Master! when thou comest, it is
always
A Sabbath in the house. I cannot
work;
I must sit at thy feet; must see thee,
hear thee!
I have a feeble, wayward, doubting
heart,
Incapable of endurance or great
thoughts.
Striving for something that it cannot
reach,
Baffled and disappointed, wounded,
hungry;
And only when I hear thee am I
happy, 620
And only when I see thee am at peace!
Stronger than I, and wiser, and far
better
In every manner, is my sister Martha.
Thou seest how well she orders every-
thing
To make thee welcome; how she
comes and goes,
Careful and cumbered ever with much
serving,
While I but welcome thee with foolish
words!
Whene'er thou speakest to me, I am
happy;
When thou art silent, I am satisfied.
Thy presence is enough. I ask no
more. 630
Only to be with thee, only to see thee,
Sufficeth me. My heart is then at rest.
I wonder I am worthy of so much.

MARTHA.

Lord, dost thou care not that my sister
Mary
Hath left me thus to wait on thee
alone?
I pray thee, bid her help me.

CHRISTUS.

Martha, Martha,
Careful and troubled about many
things
Art thou, and yet one thing alone is
needful!
Thy sister Mary hath chosen that good
part,
Which never shall be taken away from
her!

640

X

BORN BLIND

A JEW.

Who is this beggar blinking in the
sun?
Is it not he who used to sit and beg
By the Gate Beautiful?

ANOTHER.

It is the same.

A THIRD.

It is not he, but like him, for that
beggar
Was blind from birth. It cannot be
the same.

THE BEGGAR.

Yea, I am he.

A JEW.

How have thine eyes been opened?

THE BEGGAR.

A man that is called Jesus made a
clay
And put it on mine eyes, and said to
me:
Go to Siloam's Pool and wash thyself.
I went and washed, and I received my
sight.

650

A JEW.

Where is He?

THE BEGGAR.

I know not.

PHARISEES.

What is this crowd
Gathered about a beggar? What has
happened?

A JEW.

Here is a man who hath been blind
from birth,
And now he sees. He says a man
called Jesus
Hath healed him.

PHARISEES.

As God liveth, the Nazarene!
How was this done?

THE BEGGAR.

Rabboni, he put clay
Upon mine eyes; I washed, and now
I see.

PHARISEES.

When did he this?

THE BEGGAR.

Rabboni, yesterday.

PHARISEES.

The Sabbath day. This man is not
of God
Because he keepeth not the Sabbath
day!

660

A JEW.

How can a man that is a sinner do
Such miracles?

PHARISEES.

What dost thou say of him
That hath restored thy sight?

THE BEGGAR.

He is a Prophet.

A JEW.

This is a wonderful story, but not
true.
A beggar's fiction. He was not born
blind,
And never has been blind!

OTHERS.

Here are his parents.
Ask them.

PHARISEES.

Is this your son?

THE PARENTS.

Rabboni, yea;
We know this is our son.

PHARISEES.

Was he born blind ?

THE PARENTS.

He was born blind.

PHARISEES.

Then how doth he now see ?

THE PARENTS, *aside*.

What answer shall we make ? If we
confess

It was the Christ, we shall be driven
forth

Out of the Synagogue ! We know,
Rabboni,

This is our son, and that he was born
blind ;

But by what means he seeth, we know
not,

Or who his eyes hath opened, we know
not.

He is of age ; ask him ; we cannot
say ;

He shall speak for himself.

PHARISEES.

Give God the praise !

We know the man that healed thee is
a sinner !

THE BEGGAR.

Whether He be a sinner, I know not ;
One thing I know ; that whereas I was
blind,

I now do see.

PHARISEES.

How opened he thine eyes ?

What did he do ?

THE BEGGAR.

I have already told you.

Ye did not hear : why would ye hear
again ?

Will ye be his disciples ?

PHARISEES.

God of Moses !

Are we demoniacs, are we halt or
blind,

Or palsy-stricken, or lepers, or the
like,

That we should join the Synagogue of
Satan,

And follow jugglers ? Thou art his
disciple,

But we are disciples of Moses ; and
we know

That God spake unto Moses ; but this
fellow,

We know not whence he is !

THE BEGGAR.

Why, herein is
A marvellous thing ! Ye know not
whence He is,

Yet He hath opened mine eyes ! We
know that God

Hearth not sinners ; but if any man
Doeth God's will, and is his worship-

per,
Him doth He hear. Oh, since the
world began

It was not heard that any man hath
opened

The eyes of one that was born blind.
If He

Were not of God, surely He could do
nothing !

PHARISEES.

Thou, who wast altogether born in
sins

And in iniquities, dost thou teach us ?
Away with thee out of the holy places,

Thou reprobate, thou beggar, thou
blasphemer !

THE BEGGAR *is cast out*.

XI

SIMON MAGUS AND HELEN OF TYRE

*On the house-top at Endor. Night. A
lighted lantern on a table.*

SIMON.

Swift are the blessed Immortals to the
mortal

That perseveres ! So doth it stand re-
corded

In the divine Chaldæan Oracles
Of Zoroaster, once Ezekiel's slave,

Who in his native East betook him-
self

To lonely meditation, and the writing
On the dried skins of oxen the Twelve

Books
Of the Avesta and the Oracles !

Therefore I persevere ; and I have
brought thee

From the great city of Tyre, where
 men deride
 The things they comprehend not, to
 this plain
 Of Esdraelon, in the Hebrew tongue
 Called Armageddon, and this town of
 Endor,
 Where men believe ; where all the air
 is full
 Of marvellous traditions, and the En-
 chantress
 That summoned up the ghost of Sam-
 uel
 Is still remembered. Thou hast seen
 the land ; 720
 Is it not fair to look on ?

HELEN.

It is fair,
 Yet not so fair as Tyre.

SIMON.

Is not Mount Tabor
 As beautiful as Carmel by the Sea ?

HELEN.

It is too silent and too solitary ;
 I miss the tumult of the streets ; the
 sounds
 Of traffic, and the going to and fro
 Of people in gay attire, with cloaks of
 purple,
 And gold and silver jewelry !

SIMON.

Inventions
 Of Ahriman, the spirit of the dark,
 The Evil Spirit !

HELEN.

I regret the gossip
 Of friends and neighbors at the open
 door 731
 On summer nights.

SIMON.

An idle waste of time.

HELEN.

The singing and the dancing, the de-
 light
 Of music and of motion. Woe is me,
 To give up all these pleasures, and to
 lead
 The life we lead !

SIMON.

Thou canst not raise thyself
 Up to the level of my higher thought,
 And though possessing thee, I still re-
 main
 Apart from thee, and with thee, am
 alone 739
 In my high dreams.

HELEN.

Happier was I in Tyre.
 Oh, I remember how the gallant ships
 Came sailing in, with ivory, gold, and
 silver,
 And apes and peacocks ; and the sing-
 ing sailors,
 And the gay captains with their silken
 dresses,
 Smelling of aloes, myrrh, and cinna-
 mon !

SIMON.

But the dishonor, Helen ! Let the
 ships
 Of Tarshish howl for that !

HELEN.

And what dishonor?
 Remember Rahab, and how she be-
 came
 The ancestress of the great Psalmist
 David ;
 And wherefore should not I, Helen of
 Tyre, 750
 Attain like honor ?

SIMON.

Thou art Helen of Tyre,
 And hast been Helen of Troy, and
 hast been Rahab,
 The Queen of Sheba, and Semiramis,
 And Sara of seven husbands, and
 Jezebel,
 And other women of the like allure-
 ments ;
 And now thou art Minerva, the first
 Æon,
 The Mother of Angels !

HELEN.

And the concubine
 Of Simon the Magician ! Is it honor
 For one who has been all these noble
 dames,
 To tramp about the dirty villages 760
 And cities of Samaria with a juggler ?
 A charmer of serpents ?

SIMON.

He who knows himself
Knows all things in himself. I have
 charmed thee,
Thou beautiful asp: yet am I no ma-
 gician.
I am the Power of God, and the
 Beauty of God!
I am the Paraclete, the Comforter!

HELEN.

Illusions! Thou deceiver, self-de-
 ceived!
Thou dost usurp the titles of another;
Thou art not what thou sayest.

SIMON.

Am I not?
Then feel my power.

HELEN.

Would I had ne'er left Tyre!
*He looks at her, and she sinks into a
 deep sleep.*

SIMON.

Go, see it in thy dreams, fair unbe-
 liever! 771
And leave me unto mine, if they be
 dreams,
That take such shapes before me, that
 I see them;
These effable and ineffable impres-
 sions
Of the mysterious world, that come to
 me
From the elements of Fire and Earth
 and Water,
And the all-nourishing Ether! It is
 written,
Look not on Nature, for her name is
 fatal!
Yet there are Principles, that make
 apparent
The images of unapparent things, 780
And the impression of vague charac-
 ters
And visions most divine appear in
 ether.
So speak the Oracles; then wherefore
 fatal?
I take this orange-bough, with its five
 leaves,
Each equidistant on the upright
 stem;
And I project them on a plane below,

In the circumference of a circle drawn
About a centre where the stem is
 planted,
And each still equidistant from the
 other;
As if a thread of gossamer were
 drawn 790
Down from each leaf, and fastened
 with a pin.
Now if from these five points a line be
 traced
To each alternate point, we shall ob-
 tain
The Pentagram, or Solomon's Pent-
 angle,
A charm against all witchcraft, and a
 sign,
Which on the banner of Antiochus
Drove back the fierce barbarians of
 the North,
Demons esteemed, and gave the Syrian
 King
The sacred name of Soter, or of Savior.
Thus Nature works mysteriously with
 man; 800
And from the Eternal One, as from
 a centre,
All things proceed, in fire, air, earth,
 and water,
And all are subject to one law, which
 broken
Even in a single point, is broken in
 all;
Demons rush in, and chaos comes
 again.

By this will I compel the stubborn
 spirits,
That guard the treasures, hid in cav-
 erns deep
On Gerizim, by Uzzi the High-Priest,
The ark and holy vessels, to reveal
Their secret unto me, and to restore
These precious things to the Samari-
 tans. 811
A mist is rising from the plain below
 me,
And as I look, the vapors shape them-
 selves
Into strange figures, as if unawares
My lips had breathed the Tetragram-
 maton.
And from their graves, o'er all the
 battle-fields
Of Armageddon, the long-buried cap-
 tains

THE DAUGHTER.

A crowd comes pouring through the
city gate! 59
O mother, look!

VOICES *in the street.*

Hosanna to the Son
Of David!

THE DAUGHTER.

A great multitude of people
Fills all the street; and riding on an
ass
Comes one of noble aspect, like a
king!
The people spread their garments in
the way,
And scatter branches of the palm-
trees!

VOICES.

Blessèd
Is He that cometh in the name of the
Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

OTHER VOICES.

Who is this?

VOICES.

Jesus of Nazareth!

THE DAUGHTER.

Mother, it is He!

VOICES.

He hath called Lazarus of Bethany
Out of his grave, and raised him from
the dead! 70
Hosanna in the highest!

PHARISEES.

Ye perceive
That nothing we prevail. Behold, the
world
Is all gone after him!

THE DAUGHTER.

What majesty,
What power is in that care-worn coun-
tenance!
What sweetness, what compassion!
I no longer
Wonder that He hath healed me!

VOICES.

Peace in heaven,
And glory in the highest!

PHARISEES.

Rabbi! Rabbi!
Rebuke thy followers!

CHRISTUS.

Should they hold their peace
The very stones beneath us would cry
out!

THE DAUGHTER.

All hath passed by me like a dream of
wonder! 80
But I have seen Him, and have heard
his voice,
And I am satisfied! I ask no more!

II

SOLOMON'S PORCH

GAMALIEL THE SCRIBE.

When Rabban Simeon, upon whom
be peace!
Taught in these Schools, he boasted
that his pen
Had written no word that he could
call his own,
But wholly and always had been con-
secrated
To the transcribing of the Law and
Prophets.
He used to say, and never tired of say-
ing,
The world itself was built upon the
Law.
And ancient Hillel said, that whoso-
ever 90
Gains a good name, gains something
for himself,
But he who gains a knowledge of the
Law
Gains everlasting life. And they
spake truly.
Great is the Written Law; but greater
still
The Unwritten, the Traditions of the
Elders,
The lovely words of Levites, spoken
first
To Moses on the Mount, and handed
down
From mouth to mouth, in one un-
broken sound
And sequence of divine authority.
The voice of God resounding through
the ages. 100

The Written Law is water; the Un-
written
Is precious wine; the Written Law is
salt,
The Unwritten costly spice; the Writ-
ten Law
Is but the body; the Unwritten, the
soul
That quickens it and makes it breathe
and live.

I can remember, many years ago,
A little bright-eyed school-boy, a mere
stripling,
Son of a Galilean carpenter,
From Nazareth, I think, who came
one day
And sat here in the Temple with the
Scribes,
Hearing us speak, and asking many
questions,
And we were all astonished at his
quickness.
And when his mother came, and said:
Behold

Thy father and I have sought thee,
sorrowing;
He looked as one astonished, and
made answer,
How is it that ye sought me? Wist
ye not
That I must be about my Father's
business?
Often since then I see him here among
us,
Or dream I see him, with his upraised
face
Intent and eager, and I often wonder
Unto what manner of manhood he
hath grown!
Perhaps a poor mechanic, like his fa-
ther,
Lost in his little Galilean village
And toiling at his craft, to die un-
known
And be no more remembered among
men.

CHRISTUS, *in the outer court.*

The Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses'
seat;
All, therefore, whatsoever they com-
mand you,
Observe and do; but follow not their
works;
They say and do not. They bind
heavy burdens

And very grievous to be borne, and
lay them
Upon men's shoulders, but they move
them not
With so much as a finger!

GAMALIEL, *looking forth.*

Who is this.
Exhorting in the outer courts so
loudly?

CHRISTUS.

Their works they do for to be seen of
men.
They make broad their phylacteries,
and enlarge
The borders of their garments, and
they love
The uppermost rooms at feasts, and
the chief seats
In Synagogues, and greetings in the
markets,
And to be called of all men Rabbi,
Rabbi!

GAMALIEL.

It is that loud and turbulent Gali-
lean,
That came here at the Feast of Dedi-
cation,
And stirred the people up to break the
Law!

CHRISTUS.

Woe unto you, ye Scribes and Phari-
sees,
Ye hypocrites! for ye shut up the
kingdom
Of heaven, and neither go ye in your-
selves
Nor suffer them that are entering to
go in!

GAMALIEL.

How eagerly the people throng and
listen,
As if his ribald words were words of
wisdom!

CHRISTUS.

Woe unto you, ye Scribes and Phari-
sees,
Ye hypocrites! for ye devour the
houses
Of widows, and for pretence ye make
long prayers;
Therefore shall ye receive the more
damnation.

" Who is this
Exhorting in the outer courts so loudly ? "

GAMALIEL.

This brawler is no Jew, — he is a vile
Samaritan, and hath an unclean spirit!

CHRISTUS.

Woe unto you, ye Scribes and Phari-
sees,
Ye hypocrites! ye compass sea and
land
To make one proselyte, and when he
is made
Ye make him twofold more the child
of hell
Than you yourselves are !

GAMALIEL.

O my father's father!

Hillel of blessed memory, hear and
judge! 160

CHRISTUS.

Woe unto you, ye Scribes and Phari-
sees,
Ye hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of
mint.
Of anise, and of cumin, and omit

The weightier matters of the law of
God,
Judgment and faith and mercy ; and
all these
Ye ought to have done, nor leave un-
done the others!

GAMALIEL.

O Rabban Simeon! how must thy
bones
Stir in their grave to hear such blas-
phemies!

CHRISTUS.

Woe unto you, ye Scribes and Phari-
sees,
Ye hypocrites ! for ye make clean and
sweet 170
The outside of the cup and of the
platter,
But they within are full of all excess!

GAMALIEL.

Patience of God ! canst thou endure so
long ?
Or art thou deaf, or gone upon a
journey ?

CHRISTUS.

Woe unto you, ye Scribes and Phari-
sees,
Ye hypocrites! for ye are very like
To whited sepulchres, which indeed
appear
Beautiful outwardly, but are within
Filled full of dead men's bones and all
uncleanness!

GAMALIEL.

Am I awake? Is this Jerusalem? 180
And are these Jews that throng and
stare and listen?

CHRISTUS.

Woe unto you, ye Scribes and Phari-
sees,
Ye hypocrites! because ye build the
tombs
Of prophets, and adorn the sepulchres
Of righteous men, and say: If we had
lived
When lived our fathers, we would not
have been
Partakers with them in the blood of
Prophets.
So ye be witnesses unto yourselves,
That ye are children of them that killed
the Prophets!
Fill ye up then the measure of your
fathers. 190
I send unto you Prophets and Wise
Men,
And Scribes, and some ye crucify, and
some
Scourge in your Synagogues, and per-
secute
From city to city; that on you may
come
The righteous blood that hath been
shed on earth,
From the blood of righteous Abel to
the blood
Of Zacharias, son of Barachias,
Ye slew between the Temple and the
altar!

GAMALIEL.

Oh, had I here my subtle dialectician,
My little Saul of Tarsus, the tent-
maker, 200
Whose wit is sharper than his needle's
point,
He would delight to foil this noisy
wrangler!

CHRISTUS.

Jerusalem! Jerusalem! O thou
That killest the Prophets, and that
stonest them
Which are sent unto thee, how often
would I
Have gathered together thy children,
as a hen
Gathereth her chickens underneath her
wing,
And ye would not! Behold, your
house is left
Unto you desolate!

THE PEOPLE.

This is a Prophet!
This is the Christ that was to come!

GAMALIEL.

Ye fools!
Think ye, shall Christ come out of
Galilee? 211

III

LORD, IS IT I?

CHRISTUS.

One of you shall betray me.

THE DISCIPLES.

Lord, is it I? Is it I?

CHRISTUS.

One of the Twelve it is
That dippeth with me in this dish his
hand;
He shall betray me. Lo, the Son of
Man
Goeth indeed as it is written of Him;
But woe shall be unto that man by
whom
He is betrayed! Good were it for that
man
If he had ne'er been born!

JUDAS ISCARIOT.

Lord, is it I?

CHRISTUS.

Ay, thou hast said. And that thou
doest, do quickly. 220

JUDAS ISCARIOT, *going out.*

Ah, woe is me!

CHRISTUS.

All ye shall be offended
Because of me this night; for it is
written:

Awake, O sword against my shepherd!
Smite

The shepherd, saith the Lord of hosts,
and scattered

Shall be the sheep! — But after I am
risen

I go before you into Galilee.

PETER.

O Master! though all men shall be of-
fended

Because of thee, yet will not I be!

CHRISTUS.

Simon,
Behold how Satan hath desired to have
you,

That he may sift you as one sifteth
wheat!

Whither I go thou canst not follow
me

Not now; but thou shalt follow me
hereafter.

PETER.

Wherefore can I not follow thee? I
am ready

To go with thee to prison and to
death.

CHRISTUS.

Verily say I unto thee, this night,
Ere the cock crow, thou shalt deny me
thrice!

PETER.

Though I should die, yet will I not
deny thee.

CHRISTUS.

When first I sent you forth without a
purse,

Or scrip, or shoes, did ye lack any-
thing?

THE DISCIPLES.

Not anything.

CHRISTUS.

But he that hath a purse,
Now let him take it, and likewise his
scrip;

And he that hath no sword, let him go
sell

His clothes and buy one. That which
hath been written

Must be accomplished now: He hath
poured out

His soul even unto death; he hath
been numbered

With the transgressors, and himself
hath borne

The sin of many, and made interces-
sion

For the transgressors. And here have
an end

The things concerning me.

PETER.

Behold, O Lord,
Behold, here are two swords!

CHRISTUS.

It is enough. 250

IV

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

CHRISTUS.

My spirit is exceeding sorrowful
Even unto death! Tarry ye here and
watch.

He goes apart.

PETER.

Under this ancient olive-tree, that
spreads

Its broad centennial branches like a
tent,

Let us lie down and rest.

JOHN.

What are those torches,
That glimmer on Brook Kedron there
below us?

JAMES.

It is some marriage feast; the joyful
maidens

Go out to meet the bridegroom.

PETER.

I am weary.
The struggles of this day have over-
come me.

They sleep.

In the Garden of Gethsemane

CHRISTUS, *falling on his face.*

Father! all things are possible to
thee, — 260

Oh, let this cup pass from me! Never-
theless

Not as I will, but as thou wilt, be
done!

Returning to the Disciples.

What! could ye not watch with me
for one hour?

Oh, watch and pray, that ye may enter
not

Into temptation. For the spirit indeed
is willing, but the flesh is weak!

JOHN.

Alas!

It is for sorrow that our eyes are
heavy. —

I see again the glimmer of those
torches

Among the olives; they are coming
hither.

JAMES.

Outside the garden wall the path di-
vides; 270

Surely they come not hither.

They sleep again.

CHRISTUS, *as before.*

O my Father !
If this cup may not pass away from
me,
Except I drink of it, thy will be
done.

Returning to the Disciples.

Sleep on ; and take your rest !

JOHN.

Belovèd Master,
Alas ! we know not what to answer
thee !
It is for sorrow that our eyes are
heavy. —
Behold, the torches now encompass us.

JAMES.

They do but go about the garden wall,
Seeking for some one, or for something
lost.

They sleep again.

CHRISTUS, *as before.*

If this cup may not pass away from
me,
Except I drink of it, thy will be done.

Returning to the Disciples.

It is enough ! Behold, the Son of Man
Hath been betrayed into the hands of
sinners !

The hour is come. Rise up, let us be
going ;
For he that shall betray me is at hand.

JOHN.

Ah me ! See, from his forehead, in
the torchlight,
Great drops of blood are falling to the
ground !

PETER.

What lights are these ? What torches
glare and glisten
Upon the swords and armor of these
men ?
And there among them Judas Iscar-
iot !

*He smites the servant of the High-
Priest with his sword.*

CHRISTUS.

Put up thy sword into its sheath ; for
they
That take the sword shall perish with
the sword.

The cup my Father hath given me to
drink,
Shall I not drink it ? Think'st thou
that I cannot
Pray to my Father, and that He shall
give me
More than twelve legions of angels
presently ?

JUDAS to CHRISTUS, *kissing him.*

Hail, Master ! hail !

CHRISTUS.

Friend, wherefore art thou come ?
Whom seek ye ?

CAPTAIN OF THE TEMPLE.

Jesus of Nazareth.

CHRISTUS.

I am he.

Are ye come hither as against a thief,
With swords and staves to take me ?

When I daily

Was with you in the Temple, ye
stretched forth

No hands to take me ! But this is
your hour,

And this the power of darkness. If
ye seek

Me only, let these others go their
way.

*The Disciples depart. CHRISTUS is
bound and led away. A certain
young man follows Him, having a
linen cloth cast about his body. They
lay hold of him, and the young man
flees from them naked.*

V

THE PALACE OF CAIAPHAS

PHARISEES.

What do we ? Clearly something
must we do,
For this man worketh many miracles.

CAIAPHAS.

I am informed that he is a mechanic ;
A carpenter's son ; a Galilean peasant,
Keeping disreputable company.

PHARISEES.

The people say that here in Bethany
He hath raised up a certain Lazarus,
Who had been dead three days.

CAIAPHAS.

Impossible!
 There is no resurrection of the dead;
 This Lazarus should be taken, and
 put to death
 As an impostor. If this Galilean
 Would be content to stay in Galilee,
 And preach in country towns, I should
 not heed him.
 But when he comes up to Jerusalem
 Riding in triumph, as I am informed,
 And drives the money-changers from
 the Temple, 320
 That is another matter.

PHARISEES.

If we thus
 Let him alone, all will believe on him,
 And then the Romans come and take
 away
 Our place and nation.

CAIAPHAS.

Ye know nothing at all.
 Simon Ben Camith, my great prede-
 cessor,
 On whom be peace! would have dealt
 presently
 With such a demagogue. I shall no
 less.
 The man must die. Do ye consider not
 It is expedient that one man should
 die,
 Not the whole nation perish? What
 is death? 330
 It differeth from sleep but in duration.
 We sleep and wake again; an hour or
 two
 Later or earlier, and it matters not,
 And if we never wake it matters not;
 When we are in our graves we are at
 peace,
 Nothing can wake us or disturb us
 more.
 There is no resurrection.

PHARISEES, *aside*.

O most faithful
 Disciple of Hircanus Maccabæus,
 Will nothing but complete annihila-
 tion 339
 Comfort and satisfy thee?

CAIAPHAS.

While ye are talking
 And plotting, and contriving how to
 take him,

Fearing the people, and so doing
 naught,
 I, who fear not the people, have been
 acting;
 Have taken this Prophet, this young
 Nazarene,
 Who by Beelzebub the Prince of
 devils
 Casteth out devils, and doth raise the
 dead,
 That might as well be dead, and left
 in peace.
 Annas my father-in-law hath sent him
 hither.
 I hear the guard. Behold your Gali-
 lean!

CHRISTUS *is brought in bound.*SERVANT, *in the vestibule.*

Why art thou up so late, my pretty
 damsel? 350

DAMSEL.

Why art thou up so early, pretty
 man?
 It is not cock-crow yet, and art thou
 stirring?

SERVANT.

What brings thee here?

DAMSEL.

What brings the rest of you?

SERVANT.

Come here and warm thy hands.

DAMSEL *to* PETER.

Art thou not also
 One of this man's disciples?

PETER.

I am not.

DAMSEL.

Now surely thou art also one of them
 Thou art a Galilean, and thy speech
 Bewrayeth thee.

PETER.

Woman, I know him not

CAIAPHAS *to* CHRISTUS, *in the Hall.*

Who art thou? Tell us plainly of thy-
 self
 And of thy doctrines, and of thy dis-
 ciples. 360

CHRISTUS.

Lo, I have spoken openly to the world,
I have taught ever in the Synagogue,
And in the Temple, where the Jews
resort;

In secret have said nothing. Where-
fore then

Askest thou me of this? Ask them
that heard me

What I have said to them. Behold,
they know

What I have said!

OFFICER, *striking him.*

What, fellow! answerest thou
The High-Priest so?

CHRISTUS.

If I have spoken evil,
Bear witness of the evil; but if well,
Why smitest thou me?

CAIAPHAS.

Where are the witnesses?
Let them say what they know.

THE TWO FALSE WITNESSES.

We heard him say:
I will destroy this Temple made with
hands,

372

And will within three days build up
another
Made without hands.

SCRIBES *and* PHARISEES.

He is o'erwhelmed with shame
And cannot answer!

CAIAPHAS.

Dost thou answer nothing?
What is this thing they witness here
against thee?

SCRIBES *and* PHARISEES.

He holds his peace.

CAIAPHAS.

Tell us, art thou the Christ?
I do adjure thee by the living God,
Tell us, art thou indeed the Christ?

CHRISTUS.

I am.
Hereafter shall ye see the Son of
Man
Sit on the right hand of the power of
God,
And come in clouds of heaven!

380

CAIAPHAS, *rending his clothes.*

It is enough.
He hath spoken blasphemy! What
further need
Have we of witness? Now ye have
heard
His blasphemy. What think ye? Is
he guilty?

SCRIBES and PHARISEES.
Guilty of death!

KINSMAN OF MALCHUS to PETER, *in the vestibule.*

Surely I know thy face,
Did I not see thee in the garden with
him?

PETER.
How couldst thou see me? I swear
unto thee
I do not know this man of whom ye
speak!

The cock crows.
Hark! the cock crows! That sorrow-
ful, pale face 390
Seeks for me in the crowd, and looks
at me,
As if He would remind me of those
words:
Ere the cock crow thou shalt deny me
thrice!

Goes out weeping. CHRISTUS *is blind-
folded and buffeted.*

AN OFFICER, *striking him with his
palm.*

Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, thou
Prophet!
Who is it smote thee?

CAIAPHAS.

Lead him unto Pilate!

VI

PONTIUS PILATE

PILATE.

Wholly incomprehensible to me,
Vainglorious, obstinate, and given up
To unintelligible old traditions,
And proud, and self-conceited are
these Jews!
Not long ago, I marched the legions
down 400

From Cæsarea to their winter-quarters
Here in Jerusalem, with the effigies
Of Cæsar on their ensigns, and a
tumult
Arose among these Jews, because their
Law
Forbids the making of all images!
They threw themselves upon the
ground with wild
Expostulations, bared their necks, and
cried
That they would sooner die than have
their Law
Infringed in any manner; as if Numa
Were not as great as Moses, and the
Laws 410
Of the Twelve Tables as their Penta-
teuch!

And then, again, when I desired to
span
Their valley with an aqueduct, and
bring
A rushing river in to wash the city
And its inhabitants, — they all re-
belled
As if they had been herds of unwashed
swine!
Thousands and thousands of them got
together
And raised so great a clamor round
my doors,
That, fearing violent outbreak, I de-
sisted,
And left them to their wallowing in
the mire. 420

And now here comes the reverend
Sanhedrim
Of lawyers, priests, and Scribes and
Pharisees,
Like old and toothless mastiffs, that
can bark
But cannot bite, howling their accusa-
tions
Against a mild enthusiast, who hath
preached
I know not what new doctrine, being
King
Of some vague kingdom in the other
world,
That hath no more to do with Rome
and Cæsar
Than I have with the patriarch Abra-
ham!
Finding this man to be a Galilean 430

"Barabbas is my name"

I sent him straight to Herod, and I
 hope
 That is the last of it ; but if it be not,
 I still have power to pardon and re-
 lease him,
 As is the custom at the Passover,
 And so accommodate the matter
 smoothly,
 Seeming to yield to them, yet saving
 him ;
 A prudent and sagacious policy
 For Roman Governors in the Pro-
 vinces.

Incomprehensible, fanatic people !
 Ye have a God, whoseemeth like your-
 selves 440
 Incomprehensible, dwelling apart,
 Majestic, cloud-encompassed, clothed
 in darkness !
 One whom ye fear, but love not ; yet
 ye have
 No Goddesses to soften your stern
 lives,
 And make you tender unto human
 weakness,
 While we of Rome have everywhere
 around us

Our amiable divinities, that haunt
 The woodlands, and the waters, and
 frequent
 Our households, with their sweet and
 gracious presence !
 I will go in, and while these Jews are
 wrangling, 450
 Read my Ovidius on the Art of Love.

VII

BARABBAS IN PRISON

BARABBAS, *to his fellow-prisoner.*
 Barabbas is my name,
 Barabbas, the Son of Shame,
 Is the meaning I suppose ;
 I'm no better than the best,
 And whether worse than the rest
 Of my fellow men, who knows ?

I was once, to say it in brief,
 A highwayman, a robber-chief,
 In the open light of day. 460
 So much I am free to confess ;
 But all men, more or less,
 Are robbers in their way.

From my cavern in the crags,
From my lair of leaves and flags,
I could see, like ants, below,
The camels with their load
Of merchandise, on the road
That leadeth to Jericho.

And I struck them unaware, 470
As an eagle from the air
Drops down upon bird or beast;
And I had my heart's desire
Of the merchants of Sidon and Tyre,
And Damascus and the East.

But it is not for that I fear;
It is not for that I am here
In these iron fetters bound;
Sedition! that is the word
That Pontius Pilate heard, 480
And he liketh not the sound.

What think ye, would he care
For a Jew slain here or there,
Or a plundered caravan?
But Cæsar! — ah, that is a crime,
To the uttermost end of time
Shall not be forgiven to man.

Therefore was Herod wroth
With Matthias Margaloth,
And burned him for a show! 490
Therefore his wrath did smite
Judas the Gaulonite,
And his followers, as ye know.

For that cause and no more,
Am I here, as I said before;
For one unlucky night,
Jucundus, the captain of horse,
Was upon us with all his force,
And I was caught in the fight.

I might have fled with the rest, 500
But my dagger was in the breast
Of a Roman equerry;
As we rolled there in the street,
They bound me, hands and feet;
And this is the end of me.

Who cares for death? Not I!
A thousand times I would die,
Rather than suffer wrong!
Already those women of mine 509
Are mixing the myrrh and the wine;
I shall not be with you long.

VIII

ECCE HOMO

PILATE, *on the tessellated pavement in front of his palace.*

Ye have brought unto me this man, as
one
Who doth pervert the people; and behold!

I have examined him, and found no
fault
Touching the things whereof ye do
accuse him.

No, nor yet Herod; for I sent you to
him,
And nothing worthy of death he findeth in him.

Ye have a custom at the Passover,
That one condemned to death shall be
released.

Whom will ye, then, that I release to
you? 520

Jesus Barabbas, called the Son of
Shame,

Or Jesus, Son of Joseph, called the
Christ?

THE PEOPLE, *shouting.*

Not this man, but Barabbas!

PILATE.

What then will ye
That I should do with him that is
called Christ?

THE PEOPLE.

Crucify him!

PILATE.

Why, what evil hath he done?
Lo, I have found no cause of death in
him;
I will chastise him, and then let him
go.

THE PEOPLE, *more vehemently.*

Crucify him! crucify him!

A MESSENGER, *to PILATE.*

Thy wife sends
This message to thee, — Have thou
naught to do

With that just man; for I this day in
dreams 530

Have suffered many things because of
him.

PILATE, *aside*.

The Gods speak to us in our dreams!
I tremble

At what I have to do! O Claudia,
How shall I save him? Yet one ef-
fort more,
Or he must perish!

Washes his hands before them.

I am innocent
Of the blood of this just person; see
ye to it!

THE PEOPLE.

Let his blood be on us and on our
children!

VOICES, *within the palace*.

Put on thy royal robes; put on thy
crown,
And take thy sceptre! Hail, thou
King of the Jews!

PILATE.

I bring him forth to you, that ye may
know
I find no fault in him. Behold the man!

CHRISTUS *is led in with the purple robe
and crown of thorns.*

CHIEF PRIESTS and OFFICERS.

Crucify him! crucify him!

PILATE.

Take ye him;
I find no fault in him.

CHIEF PRIESTS.

We have a Law,
And by our Law he ought to die; be-
cause
He made himself to be the Son of God.

PILATE, *aside*.

Ah! there are Sons of God, and deml-
gods
More than ye know, ye ignorant High-
Priests!

To CHRISTUS.

Whence art thou?

CHIEF PRIESTS.

Crucify him! crucify him!

PILATE, *to* CHRISTUS.

Dost thou not answer me? Dost thou
not know
That I have power enough to crucify
thee? ⁵⁵⁰
That I have also power to set thee
free?

CHRISTUS.

Thou couldst have no power at all
against me
Except that it were given thee from
above;
Therefore hath he that sent me unto
thee
The greater sin.

CHIEF PRIESTS.

If thou let this man go,
Thou art not Cæsar's friend. For
whosoever
Maketh himself a King, speaks against
Cæsar.

PILATE.

Ye Jews, behold your King!

CHIEF PRIESTS.

Away with him!
Crucify him!

PILATE.

Shall I crucify your King?

CHIEF PRIESTS.

We have no King but Cæsar!

PILATE.

Take him, then,
Take him, ye cruel and bloodthirsty
Priests, ⁵⁶¹
More merciless than the plebeian mob,
Who pity and spare the fainting
gladiator
Blood-stained in Roman amphithea-
tres, —
Take him, and crucify him if ye will;
But if the immortal Gods do ever
mingle
With the affairs of mortals, which I
doubt not,
And hold the attribute of justice dear,
They will commission the Eumenides
To scatter you to the four winds of
heaven, ⁵⁷⁰
Exactng tear for tear, and blood for
blood.

Here, take ye this inscription, Priests,
and nail it
Upon the cross, above your victim's
head:
Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

CHIEF PRIESTS.

Nay, we entreat! write not, the King
of the Jews;
But that he said: I am the King of
the Jews!

PILATE.

Enough. What I have written, I
have written.

IX

ACELDAMA

JUDAS ISCARIOT.

Lost! lost! Forever lost! I have
betrayed
The innocent blood! O God! if thou
art love,
Why didst thou leave me naked to
the tempter? ⁵⁸⁰
Why didst thou not commission thy
swift lightning
To strike me dead? or why did I not
perish
With those by Herod slain, the inno-
cent children
Who went with playthings in their
little hands
Into the darkness of the other world,
As if to bed? Or, wherefore was I
born,
If thou in thy foreknowledge didst
perceive
All that I am, and all that I must be?
I know I am not generous, am not
gentle,
Like other men; but I have tried to be,
And I have failed. I thought by fol-
lowing Him ⁵⁹¹
I should grow like Him; but the un-
clean spirit
That from my childhood up hath tor-
tured me
Hath been too cunning and too strong
for me.
Am I to blame for this? Am I to
blame
Because I cannot love, and ne'er have
known

Golgotha

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The love of woman or the love of
children ?
It is a curse and a fatality,
A mark, that hath been set upon my
forehead,
That none shall slay me, for it were a
mercy 600
That I were dead, or never had been
born.

Too late! too late! I shall not see Him
more
Among the living. That sweet, pa-
tient face
Will never more rebuke me, nor those
lips
Repeat the words: One of you shall
betray me!
It stung me into madness. How I
loved,
Yet hated Him! But in the other
world!
I will be there before Him, and will
wait
Until he comes, and fall down on my
knees
And kiss his feet, imploring pardon,
pardon! 610

I heard Him say: All sins shall be
forgiven,
Except the sin against the Holy Ghost.
That shall not be forgiven in this
world,
Nor in the world to come. Is that my
sin ?
Have I offended so there is no hope
Here nor hereafter? That I soon
shall know.
O God, have mercy! Christ have
mercy on me!
Throws himself headlong from the cliff.

X

THE THREE CROSSES

MANAHEM, THE ESSENIAN.

Three crosses in this noonday night
uplifted,
Three human figures that in mortal
pain
Gleam white against the supernatural
darkness; 620
Two thieves, that writhe in torture,
and between them

The Suffering Messiah, the Son of Joseph,
Ay, the Messiah Triumphant, Son of David!

A crown of thorns on that dishonored head!

Those hands that healed the sick now pierced with nails,

Those feet that wandered homeless through the world

Now crossed and bleeding, and at rest forever!

And the three faithful Maries, overwhelmed

By this great sorrow, kneeling, praying, weeping!

O Joseph Caiaphas, thou great High-Priest,

How wilt thou answer for this deed of blood?

SCRIBES *and* ELDERS.

Thou that destroyest the Temple, and dost build it

In three days, save thyself; and if thou be

The Son of God, come down now from the cross.

CHIEF PRIESTS.

Others he saved, himself he cannot save!

Let Christ the King of Israel descend

That we may see and believe!

SCRIBES *and* ELDERS.

In God he trusted;
Let Him deliver him, if He will have him,

And we will then believe.

CHRISTUS.

Father! forgive them;
They know not what they do.

THE IMPENITENT THIEF.

If thou be Christ,
Oh save thyself and us!

THE PENITENT THIEF.

Remember me,
Lord, when thou comest into thine own kingdom.

CHRISTUS.

This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.

MANAHEM.

Golgotha! Golgotha! Oh the pain and darkness!

Oh the uplifted cross, that shall forever Shine through the darkness, and shall conquer pain

By the triumphant memory of this hour!

SIMON MAGUS.

O Nazarene! I find thee here at last!
Thou art no more a phantom unto me!
This is the end of one who called himself

The Son of God! Such is the fate of those

Who preach new doctrines. 'Tis not what he did,

But what he said, hath brought him unto this.

I will speak evil of no dignitaries.

This is my hour of triumph, Nazarene!

THE YOUNG RULER.

This is the end of him who said to me:
Sell that thou hast, and give unto the poor!

This is the treasure in heaven he promised me!

CHRISTUS.

Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!

A SOLDIER, *preparing the hyssop.*

He calleth for Elias!

ANOTHER.

Nay, let be!
See if Elias now will come to save him!

CHRISTUS.

I thirst.

A SOLDIER.

Give him the wormwood!

CHRISTUS, *with a loud cry, bowing his head.*

It is finished!

XI

THE TWO MARIES

MARY MAGDALENE.

We have arisen early, yet the sun
O'ertakes us ere we reach the sepulchre,

To wrap the body of our blessed Lord
With our sweet spices.

MARY, MOTHER OF JAMES.

Lo, this is the garden,
And yonder is the sepulchre. But who

Shall roll away the stone for us to
enter ?

MARY MAGDALENE.

It hath been rolled away ! The sepul-
chre

Is open! Ah, who hath been here be-
fore us, ⁶⁷⁰
When we rose early, wishing to be
first?

MARY, MOTHER OF JAMES.
I am affrighted!

MARY MAGDALENE.
Hush! I will stoop down
And look within. There is a young
man sitting
On the right side, clothed in a long
white garment!
It is an angel!

THE ANGEL.
Fear not; ye are seeking
Jesus of Nazareth, which was cruci-
fied.
Why do ye seek the living among the
dead?
He is no longer here; he is arisen!
Come see the place where the Lord
lay! Remember
How He spake unto you in Galilee,
Saying: The Son of Man must be de-
livered
Into the hands of sinful men; by
them
Be crucified, and the third day rise
again!
But go your way, and say to his dis-
ciples,
He goeth before you into Galilee;
There shall ye see Him as He said to
you.

MARY, MOTHER OF JAMES.
I will go swiftly for them.

MARY MAGDALENE, *alone, weeping.*
They have taken
My Lord away from me, and now I
know not
Where they have laid Him! Who is
there to tell me?
This is the gardener. Surely he must
know. ⁶⁹⁰

CHRISTUS.
Woman, why weepest thou? Whom
seekest thou?

MARY MAGDALENE.
They have taken my Lord away; I
cannot find Him.

O Sir, if thou have borne him hence,
I pray thee
Tell me where thou hast laid Him.

CHRISTUS.

Mary!

MARY MAGDALENE.

Rabboni!

XII

THE SEA OF GALILEE

NATHANAEL, *in the ship.*

All is now ended.

JOHN.

Nay, He is arisen,
I ran unto the tomb, and stooping
down
Looked in, and saw the linen grave
clothes lying,
Yet dared not enter.

PETER.

I went in, and saw
The napkin that had been about his
head, ⁶⁹⁹
Not lying with the other linen clothes,
But wrapped together in a separate
place.

THOMAS.

And I have seen Him. I have seen
the print
Of nails upon his hands, and thrust
my hands
Into his side. I know He is arisen;
But where are now the kingdom and
the glory
He promised unto us? We have all
dreamed
That we were princes, and we wake to
find
We are but fishermen.

PETER.

Who should have been
Fishers of men!

JOHN.

We have come back again
To the old life, the peaceful life,
among ⁷¹⁰
The white towns of the Galilean lake.

The Sea of Galilee

PETER.

They seem to me like silent sepulchres
In the gray light of morning! The old
life,
Yea, the old life! for we have toiled
all night
And have caught nothing.

JOHN.

Do ye see a man
Standing upon the beach and beckon-
ing?
'T is like an apparition. He hath
kindled
A fire of coals, and seems to wait for
us.
He calleth.

CHRISTUS, *from the shore.*

Children, have ye any meat?

PETER.

Alas! We have caught nothing.

CHRISTUS.

Cast the net
On the right side of the ship, and ye
shall find.

721

PETER.

How that reminds me of the days gone
by,
And one who said: Launch out into
the deep,
And cast your nets!

NATHANAEL.

We have but let them down
And they are filled, so that we cannot
draw them!

JOHN.

It is the Lord!

PETER, *girding his fisher's coat about
him.*

He said. When I am risen
I will go before you into Galilee!
He casts himself into the lake.

JOHN.

There is no fear in love; for perfect
love
Casteth out fear. Now then, if ye are
men,

Put forth your strength; we are not
far from shore; ⁷³⁰
The net is heavy, but breaks not. All
is safe.

PETER, *on the shore.*

Dear Lord! I heard thy voice and
could not wait.
Let me behold thy face, and kiss thy
feet!
Thou art not dead, thou livest! Again
I see thee.
Pardon, dear Lord! I am a sinful
man;
I have denied thee thrice. Have
mercy on me!

THE OTHERS, *coming to land.*

Dear Lord! stay with us! cheer us!
comfort us!
Lo! we again have found thee! Leave
us not!

CHRISTUS.

Bring hither of the fish that ye have
caught, ⁷³⁹
And come and eat!

JOHN.

Behold! He breaketh bread
As He was wont. From his own
blessèd hands
Again we take it.

CHRISTUS.

Simon, son of Jonas,
Lovest thou me, more than these
others?

PETER.

Yea,
More, Lord, than all men; even more
than these.
Thou knowest that I love thee.

CHRISTUS.

Feed my lambs.

THOMAS, *aside.*

How more than we do? He remaineth
ever
Self-confident and boastful as before.
Nothing will cure him.

CHRISTUS.

Simon, son of Jonas,
Lovest thou me?

PETER.

Yea, dearest Lord, I love thee.
Thou knowest that I love thee.

CHRISTUS.

Feed my sheep.

THOMAS, *aside.*

Again, the selfsame question, and the
answer ⁷⁵¹
Repeated with more vehemence. Can
the Master
Doubt if we love Him?

CHRISTUS.

Simon, son of Jonas,
Lovest thou me?

PETER, *grieved.*

Dear Lord! thou knowest all things.
Thou knowest that I love thee.

CHRISTUS.

Feed my sheep.
When thou wast young thou girdedst
thyself, and walkedst
Whither thou wouldst; but when thou
shalt be old,
Thou shalt stretch forth thy hands,
and other men
Shall gird and carry thee whither thou
wouldst not.
Follow thou me!

JOHN, *aside.*

It is a prophecy ⁷⁶⁰
Of what death he shall die.

PETER, *pointing to JOHN.*

Tell me, O Lord,
And what shall this man do?

CHRISTUS.

And if I will
He tarry till I come, what is it to
thee?
Follow thou me!

PETER.

Yea, I will follow thee, dear Lord
and Master!
Will follow thee through fasting and
temptation,
Through all thine agony and bloody
sweat,
Thy cross and passion, even unto
death!

EPILOGUE

SYMBOLUM APOSTOLORUM

PETER.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty;

JOHN.

Maker of Heaven and Earth;

JAMES.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

ANDREW.

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;

PHILIP.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

THOMAS.

And the third day He rose again from the dead;

BARTHOLOMEW.

He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;

MATTHEW.

From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

JAMES, THE SON OF ALPHEUS.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church;

SIMON ZELOTES.

The communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins;

JUDE.

The resurrection of the body;

MATTHIAS.

And the Life Everlasting.

FIRST INTERLUDE

THE ABBOT JOACHIM

A ROOM IN THE CONVENT OF FLORA
IN CALABRIA. NIGHT.

JOACHIM.

THE wind is rising; it seizes and shakes
The doors and window-blinds and makes

Mysterious moanings in the halls;
The convent-chimneys seem almost
The trumpets of some heavenly host,
Setting its watch upon our walls!
Where it listeth, there it bloweth;
We hear the sound, but no man knoweth

Whence it cometh or whither it goeth,
And thus it is with the Holy Ghost. 10
O breath of God! O my delight
In many a vigil of the night,
Like the great voice in Patmos heard
By John, the Evangelist of the Word,
I hear thee behind me saying: Write
In a book the things that thou hast seen,
The things that are, and that have been,
And the things that shall hereafter be!

This convent, on the rocky crest
Of the Calabrian hills, to me 20
A Patmos is wherein I rest;
While round about me like a sea
The white mists roll, and overflow
The world that lies unseen below
In darkness and in mystery.
Here in the Spirit, in the vast
Embrace of God's encircling arm,
Am I uplifted from all harm;
The world seems something far away,
Something belonging to the Past, 30
A hostelry, a peasant's farm,
That lodged me for a night or day,
In which I care not to remain,
Nor having left, to see again.

Thus, in the hollow of God's hand
I dwelt on sacred Tabor's height,
When as a simple acolyte
I journeyed to the Holy Land,
A pilgrim for my master's sake,
And saw the Galilean Lake, 40
And walked through many a village street

That once had echoed to his feet.
There first I heard the great command,

The voice behind me saying: Write!
And suddenly my soul became
Illumined by a flash of flame,
That left imprinted on my thought
The image I in vain had sought,
And which forever shall remain;
As sometimes from these windows high, 50

Gazing at midnight on the sky
 Black with a storm of wind and rain,
 I have beheld a sudden glare
 Of lightning lay the landscape bare,
 With tower and town and hill and
 plain
 Distinct, and burnt into my brain,
 Never to be effaced again!

And I have written. These volumes
 three,
 The Apocalypse, the Harmony
 Of the Sacred Scriptures, new and
 old, 60
 And the Psalter with Ten Strings, en-
 fold
 Within their pages, all and each,
 The Eternal Gospel that I teach.
 Well I remember the Kingdom of
 Heaven

Hath been likened to a little leaven
 Hidden in two measures of meal,
 Until it leavened the whole mass;
 So likewise will it come to pass
 With the doctrines that I here conceal.

Open and manifest to me 70
 The truth appears, and must be told;
 All sacred mysteries are threefold;
 Three Persons in the Trinity,
 Three ages of Humanity,
 And Holy Scriptures likewise three,
 Of Fear, of Wisdom, and of Love;
 For Wisdom that begins in Fear
 Endeth in Love; the atmosphere
 In which the soul delights to be,
 And finds that perfect liberty 80
 Which cometh only from above.

In the first Age, the early prime
 And dawn of all historic time,
 The Father reigned; and face to face
 He spake with the primeval race.
 Bright Angels, on his errands sent,
 Sat with the patriarch in his tent;
 His prophets thundered in the street;
 His lightnings flashed, his hailstorms
 beat;
 In earthquake and in flood and flame, 90
 In tempest and in cloud He came!
 The fear of God is in his Book;
 The pages of the Pentateuch
 Are full of the terror of his name.

Then reigned the Son; his Covenant
 Was peace on earth, good-will to man;

With Him the reign of Law began.
 He was the Wisdom and the Word,
 And sent his Angels Ministrant,
 Unterrified and undeterred, 100
 To rescue souls forlorn and lost,
 The troubled, tempted, tempest-tost
 To heal, to comfort, and to teach.
 The fiery tongues of Pentecost
 His symbols were, that they should
 preach

In every form of human speech,
 From continent to continent.
 He is the Light Divine, whose rays
 Across the thousand years unspent
 Shine through the darkness of our
 days, 110
 And touch with their celestial fires
 Our churches and our convent spires.
 His Book is the New Testament.

These Ages now are of the Past;
 And the Third Age begins at last.
 The coming of the Holy Ghost,
 The reign of Grace, the reign of Love
 Brightens the mountain-tops above,
 And the dark outline of the coast.
 Already the whole land is white 120
 With convent walls, as if by night
 A snow had fallen on hill and height!
 Already from the streets and marts
 Of town and traffic, and low cares,
 Men climb the consecrated stairs
 With weary feet, and bleeding hearts;
 And leave the world, and its delights,
 Its passions, struggles, and despairs,
 For contemplation and for prayers
 In cloister-cells of cœnobites. 130

Eternal benedictions rest
 Upon thy name, Saint Benedict!
 Founder of convents in the West,
 Who built on Mount Cassino's crest
 In the Land of Labor, thine eagle's
 nest!
 May I be found not derelict
 In aught of faith or godly fear,
 If I have written, in many a page,
 The Gospel of the coming age,
 The Eternal Gospel men shall hear. 140
 Oh may I live resembling thee,
 And die at last as thou hast died;
 So that hereafter men may see,
 Within the choir, a form of air,
 Standing with arms outstretched in
 prayer,
 As one that hath been crucified!

My work is finished; I am strong
 In faith and hope and charity;
 For I have written the things I see,
 The things that have been and shall
 be, ¹⁵⁰
 Conscious of right, nor fearing
 wrong;
 Because I am in love with Love,
 And the sole thing I hate is Hate;
 For Hate is death; and Love is life,
 A peace, a splendor from above;
 And Hate, a never-ending strife,
 A smoke, a blackness from the abyss
 Where unclean serpents coil and hiss!
 Love is the Holy Ghost within;
 Hate the unpardonable sin! ¹⁶⁰
 Who preaches otherwise than this,
 Betrays his Master with a kiss!

PART TWO

THE GOLDEN LEGEND

PROLOGUE

THE SPIRE OF STRASBURG CATHEDRAL

*Night and storm. LUCIFER, with the
 Powers of the Air, trying to tear
 down the Cross.*

LUCIFER.

HASTEN! hasten!
 O ye spirits!
 From its station drag the ponderous
 Cross of iron, that to mock us
 Is uplifted high in air!

VOICES.

Oh, we cannot!
 For around it
 All the Saints and Guardian Angels
 Throng in legions to protect it;
 They defeat us everywhere! ¹⁰

THE BELLS.

Laudo Deum verum!
 Plebem voco!
 Congrego clerum!

LUCIFER.

Lower! lower!
 Hover downward!
 Seize the loud, vociferous bells, and

Clashing, clanging, to the pavement
 Hurl them from their windy tower!

VOICES.

All thy thunders
 Here are harmless! ²⁰
 For these bells have been anointed,
 And baptized with holy water!
 They defy our utmost power.

THE BELLS.

Defunctos ploro!
 Pestem fugo!
 Festa decoro!

LUCIFER.

Shake the casements!
 Break the painted
 Panes, that flame with gold and crim-
 son;
 Scatter them like leaves of Autumn, ³⁰
 Swept away before the blast!

VOICES.

Oh, we cannot!
 The Archangel
 Michael flames from every window,
 With the sword of fire that drove us
 Headlong, out of heaven, aghast!

THE BELLS.

Funera plango!
 Fulgura frango!
 Sabbata pango!

LUCIFER.

Aim your lightnings ⁴⁰
 At the oaken,
 Massive, iron-studded portals!
 Sack the house of God, and scatter
 Wide the ashes of the dead!

VOICES.

Oh, we cannot!
 The Apostles
 And the Martyrs, wrapped in mantles,
 Stand as warders at the entrance,
 Stand as sentinels o'erhead!

THE BELLS.

Excito lentos! ⁵⁰
 Dissipo ventos!
 Paco cruentos!

LUCIFER.

Baffled! baffled!
 Inefficient,
 Craven spirits! leave this labor

Unto Time, the great Destroyer!
Come away, ere night is gone!

VOICES.

Onward! onward!
With the night-wind,
Over field and farm and forest, 60
Lonely homestead, darksome hamlet,
Blighting all we breathe upon!
*They sweep away. Organ and Grego-
rian Chant.*

CHOIR.

Nocte surgentes
Vigilemus omnes!

I

THE CASTLE OF VAUTSBERG ON THE RHINE

*A chamber in a tower. PRINCE HENRY,
sitting alone, ill and restless. Mid-
night.*

PRINCE HENRY.

I cannot sleep! my fervid brain
Calls up the vanished Past again,
And throws its misty splendors deep
Into the pallid realms of sleep!
A breath from that far-distant shore
Comes freshening ever more and
more,
And wafts o'er intervening seas
Sweet odors from the Hesperides!
A wind, that through the corridor
Just stirs the curtain, and no more, 10
And, touching the æolian strings,
Faints with the burden that it brings!
Come back! ye friendships long de-
parted!
That like o'erflowing streamlets
started,
And now are dwindled, one by one,
To stony channels in the sun!
Come back! ye friends, whose lives
are ended,
Come back, with all that light at-
tended,
Which seemed to darken and decay
When ye arose and went away! 20
They come, the shapes of joy and
woe,
The airy crowds of long ago,

The dreams and fancies known of
yore,
That have been, and shall be no more.
They change the cloisters of the night
Into a garden of delight;
They make the dark and dreary hours
Open and blossom into flowers!
I would not sleep! I love to be
Again in their fair company; 30
But ere my lips can bid them stay,
They pass and vanish quite away!
Alas! our memories may retrace
Each circumstance of time and place,
Season and scene come back again,
And outward things unchanged re-
main;

The rest we cannot reinstate;
Ourselves we cannot re-create;
Nor set our souls to the same key
Of the remembered harmony! 40

Rest! rest! Oh, give me rest and
peace!

The thought of life that ne'er shall
cease

Has something in it like despair,
A weight I am too weak to bear!
Sweeter to this afflicted breast
The thought of never-ending rest!
Sweeter the undisturbed and deep
Tranquillity of endless sleep! 48

*A flash of lightning, out of which LU-
CIFER appears, in the garb of a trav-
elling Physician.*

LUCIFER.

All hail, Prince Henry!

PRINCE HENRY, *starting*.

Who is it speaks?
Who and what are you?

LUCIFER.

One who seeks
A moment's audience with the Prince

PRINCE HENRY.

When came you in?

LUCIFER.

A moment since.
I found your study door unlocked,
And thought you answered when I
knocked.

PRINCE HENRY.

I did not hear you.

LUCIFER.

You heard the thunder,
It was loud enough to waken the dead.
And it is not a matter of special wonder
That, when God is walking overhead,⁵⁷
You should not hear my feeble tread.

PRINCE HENRY.

What may your wish or purpose be ?

LUCIFER.

Nothing or everything, as it pleases
Your Highness. You behold in me
Only a travelling Physician ;
One of the few who have a mission
To cure incurable diseases,
Or those that are called so.

PRINCE HENRY.

Can you bring
The dead to life ?

LUCIFER.

Yes ; very nearly.
And, what is a wiser and better thing,
Can keep the living from ever needing
Such an unnatural, strange proceeding.⁷⁰

By showing conclusively and clearly
That death is a stupid blunder merely,
And not a necessity of our lives.
My being here is accidental ;
The storm, that against your casement
drives,
In the little village below waylaid
me.
And there I heard with a secret delight,
Of your maladies physical and mental,
Which neither astonished nor dismayed me.
And I hastened hither, though late in
the night,⁸⁰
To proffer my aid !

PRINCE HENRY, *ironically*.

For this you came !
Ah, how can I ever hope to requite
This honor from one so erudite ?

LUCIFER.

The honor is mine, or will be when
I have cured your disease.

PRINCE HENRY.

But not till then.

LUCIFER.

What is your illness ?

PRINCE HENRY.

It has no name.

A smouldering, dull, perpetual flame,
 As in a kiln, burns in my veins,
 Sending up vapors to the head;
 My heart has become a dull lagoon, 90
 Which a kind of leprosy drinks and
 drains ;
 I am accounted as one who is dead,
 And, indeed, I think that I shall be
 soon.

LUCIFER.

And has Gordonius the Divine,
 In his famous Lily of Medicine, —
 I see the book lies open before you, —
 No remedy potent enough to restore
 you ?

PRINCE HENRY.

None whatever !

LUCIFER.

The dead are dead,
 And their oracles dumb, when ques-
 tioned
 Of the new diseases that human life
 Evolves in its progress, rank and rife.
 Consult the dead upon things that
 were
 But the living only on things that are.
 Have you done this, by the appliance
 And aid of doctors ?

PRINCE HENRY.

Ay, whole schools
 Of doctors, with their learned rules ;
 But the case is quite beyond their
 science.
 Even the doctors of Salern
 Send me back word they can discern
 No cure for a malady like this, 110
 Save one which in its nature is
 Impossible and cannot be !

LUCIFER.

That sounds oracular !

PRINCE HENRY.

Unendurable !

LUCIFER.

What is their remedy ?

PRINCE HENRY.

You shall see ;
 Writ in this scroll is the mystery.

LUCIFER, *reading*.

“ Not to be cured, yet not incurable !
 The only remedy that remains
 Is the blood that flows from a maid-
 en's veins,
 Who of her own free will shall die,
 And give her life as the price of
 yours ! ” 120

That is the strangest of all cures,
 And one, I think, you will never try ;
 The prescription you may well put by,
 As something impossible to find
 Before the world itself shall end !
 And yet who knows ? One cannot say
 That into some maiden's brain that
 kind
 Of madness will not find its way.
 Meanwhile permit me to recommend,
 As the matter admits of no delay, 130
 My wonderful Catholicon,
 Of very subtile and magical powers !

PRINCE HENRY.

Purge with your nostrums and drugs
 infernal
 The spouts and gargoyles of these
 towers,
 Not me ! My faith is utterly gone
 In every power but the Power Super-
 nal !
 Pray tell me, of what school are you ?

LUCIFER.

Both of the Old and of the New !
 The school of Hermes Trismegistus,
 Who uttered his oracles sublime 140
 Before the Olympiads, in the dew
 Of the early dusk and dawn of time,
 The reign of dateless old Hephæstus !
 As northward, from its Nubian
 springs,
 The Nile, forever new and old,
 Among the living and the dead,
 Its mighty, mystic stream has rolled ;
 So, starting from its fountain-head
 Under the lotus-leaves of Isis,
 From the dead demigods of eld, 150
 Through long, unbroken lines of kings
 Its course the sacred art has held,
 Unchecked, unchanged by man's de-
 vices.

This art the Arabian Geber taught,
And in alembics, finely wrought,
Distilling herbs and flowers, discover-
 ered

The secret that so long had hov-
 ered

Upon the misty verge of Truth,
The Elixir of Perpetual Youth, ¹⁵⁹
Called Alcohol, in the Arab speech!
Like him, this wondrous lore I teach!

PRINCE HENRY.

What! an adept?

LUCIFER.

Nor less, nor more!

PRINCE HENRY.

I am a reader of your books,
A lover of that mystic lore!
With such a piercing glance it looks
Into great Nature's open eye,
And sees within it trembling lie
The portrait of the Deity!
And yet, alas! with all my pains,
The secret and the mystery ¹⁷⁰
Have baffled and eluded me,
Unseen the grand result remains!

LUCIFER, *showing a flask.*

Behold it here! this little flask
Contains the wonderful quintessence,
The perfect flower and efflorescence,
Of all the knowledge man can ask!
Hold it up thus against the light!

PRINCE HENRY.

How limpid, pure, and crystalline,
How quick, and tremulous, and
 bright
The little wavelets dance and shine, ¹⁸⁰
As were it the Water of Life in sooth!

LUCIFER.

It is! It assuages every pain,
Cures all disease, and gives again
To age the swift delights of youth.
Inhale its fragrance.

PRINCE HENRY.

It is sweet.

A thousand different odors meet
And mingle in its rare perfume,
Such as the winds of summer waft
At open windows through a room!

LUCIFER.

Will you not taste it?

PRINCE HENRY.

Will one draught
Suffice?

LUCIFER.

If not, you can drink more.

PRINCE HENRY.

Into this crystal goblet pour ¹⁹²
So much as safely I may drink.

LUCIFER, *pouring.*

Let not the quantity alarm you;
You may drink all; it will not harm
 you.

PRINCE HENRY.

I am as one who on the brink
Of a dark river stands and sees
The waters flow, the landscape dim
Around him waver, wheel, and swim,
And, ere he plunges, stops to think ²⁰⁰
Into what whirlpools he may sink;
One moment pauses, and no more,
Then madly plunges from the shore!
Headlong into the mysteries
Of life and death I boldly leap.
Nor fear the fateful current's sweep,
Nor what in ambush lurks below!
For death is better than disease!

*An ANGEL with an æolian harp hovers
 in the air.*

ANGEL.

Woe! woe! eternal woe!
Not only the whispered prayer ²¹⁰
Of love,
But the imprecations of hate,
Reverberate
For ever and ever through the air
Above!
This fearful curse
Shakes the great universe!

LUCIFER, *disappearing.*

Drink! drink!
And thy soul shall sink
Down into the dark abyss, ²²⁰
Into the infinite abyss,
From which no plummet nor rope
Ever drew up the silver sand of hope.

PRINCE HENRY, *drinking.*

It is like a draught of fire!
Through every vein

I feel again
 The fever of youth, the soft desire ;
 A rapture that is almost pain
 Throbs in my heart and fills my brain,
 O joy ! O joy ! I feel 230
 The band of steel
 That so long and heavily has pressed
 Upon my breast
 Uplifted, and the malediction
 Of my affliction
 Is taken from me, and my weary
 breast
 At length finds rest.

THE ANGEL.

It is but the rest of the fire, from
 which the air has been taken !
 It is but the rest of the sand, when the
 hour-glass is not shaken !
 It is but the rest of the tide between
 the ebb and the flow ! 240
 It is but the rest of the wind between
 the flaws that blow !
 With fiendish laughter,
 Hereafter,
 This false physician
 Will mock thee in thy perdition.

PRINCE HENRY

Speak ! speak !
 Who says that I am ill ?
 I am not ill ! I am not weak !
 The trance, the swoon, the dream, is
 o'er !
 I feel the chill of death no more ! 250
 At length,
 I stand renewed in all my strength !
 Beneath me I can feel
 The great earth stagger and reel,
 As if the feet of a descending God
 Upon its surface trod,
 And like a pebble it rolled beneath his
 heel !
 This, O brave physician ! this
 Is thy great Palingenesis !
Drinks again.

THE ANGEL.

Touch the goblet no more ! 260
 It will make thy heart sore
 To its very core !
 Its perfume is the breath
 Of the Angel of Death,
 And the light that within it lies
 Is the flash of his evil eyes.
 Beware ! Oh, beware !

For sickness, sorrow, and care
 All are there !

PRINCE HENRY, *sinking back.*

O thou voice within my breast ! 270
 Why entreat me, why upbraid me,
 When the steadfast tongues of truth
 And the flattering hopes of youth
 Have all deceived me and betrayed
 me ?

Give me, give me rest, oh rest !
 Golden visions wave and hover,
 Golden vapors, waters streaming,
 Landscapes moving, changing, gleam-
 ing !

I am like a happy lover, 279
 Who illumines life with dreaming !
 Brave physician ! Rare physician !
 Well hast thou fulfilled thy mission !

His head falls on his book.

THE ANGEL, *receding.*

Alas ! alas !
 Like a vapor the golden vision
 Shall fade and pass,
 And thou wilt find in thy heart again
 Only the blight of pain,
 And bitter, bitter, bitter contrition !

COURT-YARD OF THE CASTLE.

HUBERT, *standing by the gateway.*

HUBERT.

How sad the grand old castle looks !
 O'erhead, the unmolested rooks 290
 Upon the turret's windy top
 Sit, talking of the farmer's crop ;
 Here in the court-yard springs the
 grass,
 So few are now the feet that pass ;
 The stately peacocks, bolder grown,
 Come hopping down the steps of
 stone,
 As if the castle were their own ;
 And I, the poor old seneschal,
 Haunt, like a ghost, the banquet-hall.
 Alas ! the merry guests no more 300
 Crowd through the hospitable door ;
 No eyes with youth and passion
 shine,
 No cheeks glow redder than the wine ;
 No song, no laugh, no jovial din
 Of drinking wassail to the pin ;
 But all is silent, sad, and drear,
 And now the only sounds I hear

"The trance, the swoon, the dream is o'er!
I feel the chill of death no more!"

Are the hoarse rooks upon the walls,
And horses stamping in their stalls!

A horn sounds.

What ho! that merry, sudden blast 310
Reminds me of the days long past!

And, as of old resounding, grate
The heavy hinges of the gate,
And, clattering loud, with iron clank,

Down goes the sounding bridge of
plank,

As if it were in haste to greet
The pressure of a traveller's feet!

Enter WALTER the Minnesinger.

WALTER.

How now, my friend! This looks
quite lonely!

No banner flying from the walls,
No pages and no seneschals, 320
No warders, and one porter only!
Is it you, Hubert?

HUBERT.

Ah! Master Walter!

WALTER.

Alas! how forms and faces alter!
I did not know you. You look older!
Your hair has grown much grayer
and thinner,
And you stoop a little in the shoulder!

HUBERT.

Alack! I am a poor old sinner,
And, like these towers, begin to
moulder;
And you have been absent many a
year!

WALTER.

How is the Prince?

HUBERT.

He is not here;
He has been ill: and now has fled. 330

WALTER.

Speak it out frankly: say he's dead!
Is it not so?

HUBERT.

No; if you please,
 A strange, mysterious disease
 Fell on him with a sudden blight,
 Whole hours together he would stand
 Upon the terrace, in a dream,
 Resting his head upon his hand,
 Best pleased when he was most alone,
 Like Saint John Nepomuck in stone,
 Looking down into a stream. 341
 • In the Round Tower, night after
 night,
 He sat and bleared his eyes with
 books;
 Until one morning we found him
 there
 Stretched on the floor, as if in a swoon
 He had fallen from his chair.
 We hardly recognized his sweet looks!

WALTER.

Poor Prince!

HUBERT.

I think he might have mended;
 And he did mend; but very soon
 The priests came flocking in, like
 rooks, 350
 With all their crosiers and their
 crooks,
 And so at last the matter ended.

WALTER.

How did it end?

HUBERT.

Why, in Saint Rochus
 They made him stand, and wait his
 doom;
 And, as if he were condemned to the
 tomb,
 Began to mutter their hocus-pocus.
 First, the Mass for the Dead they
 chanted,
 Then three times laid upon his head
 A shovelful of churchyard clay, 359
 Saying to him, as he stood undaunted,
 "This is a sign that thou art dead,
 So in thy heart be penitent!"
 And forth from the chapel door he
 went
 Into disgrace and banishment,
 Clothed in a cloak of hodden gray,
 And bearing a wallet, and a bell,
 Whose sound should be a perpetual
 knell
 To keep all travellers away.

WALTER.

Oh, horrible fate! Outcast, rejected,
 As one with pestilence infected! 370

HUBERT.

Then was the family tomb unsealed,
 And broken helmet, sword, and
 shield,
 Buried together, in common wreck,
 As is the custom, when the last
 Of any princely house has passed,
 And thrice, as with a trumpet-blast,
 A herald shouted down the stair
 The words of warning and despair, —
 "O Hoheneck! O Hoheneck!"

WALTER.

Still in my soul that cry goes on, —
 Forever gone! forever gone! 381
 Ah, what a cruel sense of loss,
 Like a black shadow, would fall across
 The hearts of all, if he should die!
 His gracious presence upon earth
 Was as a fire upon a hearth;
 As pleasant songs, at morning sung,
 The words that dropped from his
 sweet tongue
 Strengthened our hearts; or heard at
 night,
 Made all our slumbers soft and light.
 Where is he? 39

HUBERT.

In the Odenwald.
 Some of his tenants, unappalled
 By fear of death, or priestly word, —
 A holy family, that make
 Each meal a Supper of the Lord, —
 Have him beneath their watch and
 ward,
 For love of him, and Jesus' sake!
 Pray you come in. For why should I
 With out-door hospitality
 My prince's friend thus entertain? 400

WALTER.

I would a moment here remain.
 But, you, good Hubert, go before,
 Fill me a goblet of May-drink,
 As aromatic as the May
 From which it steals the breath away,
 And which he loved so well of yore;
 It is of him that I would think.
 You shall attend me, when I call,
 In the ancestral banquet-hall.
 Unseen companions, guests of air, 410
 You cannot wait on, will be there;

scene

The stooping sun up-gathers his spent
shafts,
And puts them back into his golden
quiver!
Below me in the valley, deep and
green
As goblets are, from which in thirsty
draughts
We drink its wine, the swift and man-
tling river
Flows on triumphant through these
lovely regions,
Etched with the shadows of its som-
bre margent,
And soft, reflected clouds of gold and
argent!
Yes, there it flows, forever, broad and
still

As when the vanguard of the Roman
legions
First saw it from the top of yonder
hill!
How beautiful it is! Fresh fields of
wheat,
Vineyard, and town, and tower with
fluttering flag,
The consecrated chapel on the crag,
And the white hamlet gathered round
its base,
Like Mary sitting at her Saviour's
feet
And looking up at his beloved face!
O friend! O best of friends! Thy ab-
sence more
Than the impending night darkens the
landscape o'er!

II

A FARM IN THE ODENWALD

*A garden ; morning ; PRINCE HENRY
seated, with a book. ELSIE at a dis-
tance gathering flowers.*

PRINCE HENRY, *reading.*

One morning, all alone,
Out of his convent of gray stone,
Into the forest older, darker, grayer,
His lips moving as if in prayer,
His head sunken upon his breast
As in a dream of rest,
Walked the Monk Felix. All about
The broad, sweet sunshine lay with-
out,
Filling the summer air ; 9
And within the woodlands as he trod,
The dusk was like the Truce of God
With worldly woe and care ;
Under him lay the golden moss ;
And above him the boughs of hoary
trees
Waved, and made the sign of the
cross,
And whispered their Benedicites ;
And from the ground
Rose an odor sweet and fragrant
Of the wild-flowers and the vagrant
Vines that wandered, 20
Seeking the sunshine, round and
round.

These he heeded not, but pondered
On the volume in his hand,
Wherein amazed he read :
“ A thousand years in thy sight
Are but as yesterday when it is past,
And as a watch in the night ! ”
And with his eyes downcast
In humility he said :
“ I believe, O Lord, 30
What is written in thy Word,
But alas ! I do not understand ! ”

And lo ! he heard
The sudden singing of a bird,
A snow-white bird, that from a cloud
Dropped down,
And among the branches brown
Sat singing,
So sweet, and clear, and loud,
It seemed a thousand harp-strings
ringing, 40

And the Monk Felix closed his book,
And long, long,
With rapturous look,
He listened to the song,
And hardly breathed or stirred,
Until he saw, as in a vision,
The land Elysian,
And in the heavenly city heard
Angelic feet
Fall on the golden flagging of the
street. 50
And he would fain
Have caught the wondrous bird,
But strove in vain ;
For it flew away, away,
Far over hill and dell,
And instead of its sweet singing
He heard the convent bell
Suddenly in the silence ringing
For the service of noonday.
And he retraced 60
His pathway homeward sadly and in
haste.

In the convent there was a change !
He looked for each well-known face,
But the faces were new and strange ;
New figures sat in the oaken stalls,
New voices chanted in the choir ;
Yet the place was the same place,
The same dusky walls
Of cold, gray stone,
The same cloisters and belfry and
spire. 70

A stranger and alone
Among that brotherhood
The Monk Felix stood.
“ Forty years,” said a Friar,
“ Have I been Prior
Of this convent in the wood,
But for that space
Never have I beheld thy face ! ”

The heart of the Monk Felix fell :
And he answered, with submissive
tone, 80
“ This morning, after the hour of
Prime,
I left my cell,
And wandered forth alone,
Listening all the time
To the melodious singing
Of a beautiful white bird,
Until I heard
The bells of the convent ringing

Noon from their noisy towers.
It was as if I dreamed;
For what to me had seemed
Moments only, had been hours!"

90

"Years!" said a voice close by.
It was an aged monk who spoke,
From a bench of oak
Fastened against the wall; —
He was the oldest monk of all.
For a whole century
Had he been there,
Serving God in prayer,
The meekest and humblest of his crea-
tures.
He remembered well the features
Of Felix, and he said,
Speaking distinct and slow:
"One hundred years ago,
When I was a novice in this place,
There was here a monk, full of God's
grace,
Who bore the name
Of Felix, and this man must be the
same."

100

And straightway
They brought forth to the light of
day
A volume old and brown,
A huge tome, bound
In brass and wild-boar's hide,
Wherein were written down
The names of all who had died
In the convent, since it was edified.
And there they found,
Just as the old monk said,
That on a certain day and date,
One hundred years before,
Had gone forth from the convent gate
The Monk Felix, and never more
Had entered that sacred door.
He had been counted among the dead!
And they knew, at last,
That, such had been the power
Of that celestial and immortal song,
A hundred years had passed,
And had not seemed so long
As a single hour!

110

120

130

ELSIE comes in with flowers.

ELSIE.

Here are flowers for you,
But they are not all for you.
Some of them are for the Virgin
And for Saint Cecilia.

PRINCE HENRY.

As thou standest there,
Thou seemest to me like the angel
That brought the immortal roses
To Saint Cecilia's bridal chamber.

ELSIE.

But these will fade.

140

PRINCE HENRY.

Themselves will fade.
But not their memory,
And memory has the power
To re-create them from the dust.
They remind me, too,
Of martyred Dorothea,
Who from celestial gardens sent
Flowers as her witnesses
To him who scoffed and doubted.

ELSIE.

Do you know the story
Of Christ and the Sultan's daughter?
That is the prettiest legend of them
all.

150

PRINCE HENRY.

Then tell it to me,
But first come hither.
Lay the flowers down beside me,
And put both thy hands in mine.
Now tell me the story.

ELSIE.

Early in the morning
The Sultan's daughter
Walked in her father's garden,
Gathering the bright flowers,
All full of dew.

160

PRINCE HENRY.

Just as thou hast been doing
This morning, dearest Elsie.

ELSIE.

And as she gathered them
She wondered more and more
Who was the Master of the flowers,
And made them grow
Out of the cold, dark earth.
"In my heart," she said,
"I love him; and for him
Would leave my father's palace,
To labor in his garden."

170

PRINCE HENRY.

Dear, innocent child!
How sweetly thou recallest
The long-forgotten legend,
That in my early childhood
My mother told me!
Upon my brain
It reappears once more,
As a birth-mark on the forehead

When a hand suddenly
Is laid upon it, and removed!

ELSIE.

And at midnight,
As she lay upon her bed,
She heard a voice
Call to her from the garden,
And, looking forth from her window

She saw a beautiful youth
 Standing among the flowers. 190
 It was the Lord Jesus;
 And she went down to Him,
 And opened the door for Him;
 And He said to her, "O maiden!
 Thou hast thought of me with love,
 And for thy sake
 Out of my Father's kingdom
 Have I come hither:
 I am the Master of the Flowers.
 My garden is in Paradise, 200
 And if thou wilt go with me,
 Thy bridal garland
 Shall be of bright red flowers."
 And then He took from his finger
 A golden ring,
 And asked the Sultan's daughter
 If she would be his bride.
 And when she answered Him with
 love,
 His wounds began to bleed,
 And she said to him, 210
 "O Love! how red thy heart is,
 And thy hands are full of roses."
 "For thy sake," answered He,
 "For thy sake is my heart so red,
 For thee I bring these roses;
 I gathered them at the cross
 Whereon I died for thee!
 Come, for my father calls.
 Thou art my elected bride!" 220
 And the Sultan's daughter
 Followed Him to his Father's gar-
 den.

PRINCE HENRY.

Wouldst thou have done so, Elsie?

ELSIE.

Yes, very gladly.

PRINCE HENRY.

Then the Celestial Bridegroom
 Will come for thee also.
 Upon thy forehead He will place,
 Not his crown of thorns,
 But a crown of roses,
 In thy bridal chamber.
 Like Saint Cecilia, 230
 Thou shalt hear sweet music,
 And breathe the fragrance
 Of flowers immortal!
 Go now and place these flowers
 Before her picture.

A ROOM IN THE FARM-HOUSE

Twilight. URSULA spinning. GOTTLIEB asleep in his chair.

URSULA.

Darker and darker! Hardly a glim-
 mer
 Of light comes in at the window-pane;
 Or is it my eyes are growing dimmer?
 I cannot disentangle this skein,
 Nor wind it rightly upon the reel. 240
 Elsie!

GOTTLIEB, *starting*.

The stopping of thy wheel
 Has awakened me out of a pleasant
 dream.
 I thought I was sitting beside a
 stream,
 And heard the grinding of a mill,
 When suddenly the wheels stood still,
 And a voice cried "Elsie" in my ear,
 It startled me, it seemed so near.

URSULA.

I was calling her: I want a light.
 I cannot see to spin my flax.
 Bring the lamp, Elsie. Dost thou
 hear? 250

ELSIE, *within*.

In a moment!

GOTTLIEB.

Where are Bertha and Max?

URSULA.

They are sitting with Elsie at the
 door.
 She is telling them stories of the
 wood,
 And the Wolf, and little Red Riding-
 hood.

GOTTLIEB.

And where is the Prince?

URSULA.

In his room overhead;
 I heard him walking across the floor,
 As he always does, with a heavy
 tread.

ELSIE comes in with a lamp. MAX and
 BERTHA follow her; and they all sing
 the Evening Song on the lighting of
 the lamps.

EVENING SONG

O gladsome light
Of the Father Immortal,
And of the celestial
Sacred and blessed
Jesus, our Saviour! 260

Now to the sunset
Again hast thou brought us ;
And, seeing the evening
Twilight, we bless thee,
Praise thee, adore thee!

Father omnipotent!
Son, the Life-giver!
Spirit, the Comforter !
Worthy at all times
Of worship and wonder ! 270

PRINCE HENRY, *at the door.*
Amen!

URSULA.
Who was it said Amen ?

ELSIE.
It was the Prince: he stood at the
door,
And listened a moment, as we chanted
The evening song. He is gone again.
I have often seen him there before.

URSULA.
Poor Prince!
GOTTLIEB.
I thought the house was haunted!
Poor Prince, alas! and yet as mild
And patient as the gentlest child! 280

MAX.
I love him because he is so good,
And makes me such fine bows and ar-
rows,
To shoot at the robins and the spar-
rows,
And the red squirrels in the wood!

BERTHA.
I love him, too!

GOTTLIEB.
Ah, yes! we all
Love him, from the bottom of our
hearts;
He gave us the farm, the house, and
the grange,

He gave us the horses and the carts,
And the great oxen in the stall, 285
The vineyard, and the forest range!
We have nothing to give him but our
love!

BERTHA.
Did he give us the beautiful stork
above
On the chimney-top, with its large,
round nest ?

GOTTLIEB.
No, not the stork ; by God in heaven,
As a blessing, the dear white stork
was given,
But the Prince has given us all the
rest.
God bless him, and make him well
again.

ELSIE.
Would I could do something for his
sake,
Something to cure his sorrow and
pain ! 299

GOTTLIEB.
That no one can; neither thou nor I,
Nor any one else.

ELSIE.
And must he die?

URSULA.
Yes ; if the dear God does not take
Pity upon him, in his distress,
And work a miracle!

GOTTLIEB.
Or unless
Some maiden, of her own accord,
Offers her life for that of her lord,
And is willing to die in his stead.

ELSIE.
I will !

URSULA.
Prithee, thou foolish child, be still !
Thou shouldst not say what thou dost
not mean! 309

ELSIE.
I mean it truly!

MAX.
O father! this morning,
Down by the mill, in the ravine,

"The stopping of thy wheel
Has awakened me out of a pleasant dream"

Hans killed a wolf, the very same
That in the night to the sheepfold came,
And ate up my lamb, that was left
outside.

GOTTLIEB.

I am glad he is dead. It will be a
warning
To the wolves in the forest, far and
wide.

MAX.

And I am going to have his hide!

BERTHA.

I wonder if this is the wolf that ate
Little Red Ridinghood!

URSULA.

Oh, no!

That wolf was killed a long while ago.
Come, children, it is growing late. 321

MAX.

Ah, how I wish I were a man,
As stout as Hans is, and as strong!

I would do nothing else, the whole
day long,
But just kill wolves.

GOTTLIEB.

Then go to bed,

And grow as fast as a little boy can.
Bertha is half asleep already.
See how she nods her heavy head,
And her sleepy feet are so unsteady
She will hardly be able to creep up-
stairs. 330

URSULA.

Good night, my children. Here's the
light.
And do not forget to say your prayers
Before you sleep.

GOTTLIEB.

Good night!

MAX and BERTHA.

Good night!

They go out with ELsie.

URSULA, *spinning*.

She is a strange and wayward child,
That Elsie of ours. She looks so old.
And thoughts and fancies weird and
wild
Seem of late to have taken hold
Of her heart, that was once so docile
and mild!

GOTTLIEB.

She is like all girls.

URSULA.

Ah no, forsooth!

Unlike all I have ever seen. 340
For she has visions and strange dreams
And in all her words and ways, she
seems

Much older than she is in truth.
Who would think her but fifteen?
And there has been of late such a
change!

My heart is heavy with fear and
doubt

That she may not live till the year is
out.

She is so strange, — so strange — so
strange!

GOTTLIEB.

I am not troubled with any such fear;
She will live and thrive for many a
year. 350

ELSIE'S CHAMBER

Night. ELsie praying.

ELSIE.

My Redeemer and my Lord,
I beseech thee, I entreat thee,
Guide me in each act and word,
That hereafter I may meet thee,
Watching, waiting, hoping, yearning.
With my lamp well trimmed and
burning!

Interceding
With these bleeding
Wounds upon thy hands and side,
For all who have lived and errèd 360
Thou hast suffered, thou hast died,
Scourged, and mocked, and crucified,
And in the grave hast thou been bur-
ied!

If my feeble prayer can reach thee,
O my Saviour, I beseech thee,
Even as thou hast died for me,
More sincerely
Let me follow where thou leadest,
Let me, bleeding as thou bleedest,
Die, if dying I may give 370
Life to one who asks to live,
And more nearly,
Dying thus, resemble thee!

THE CHAMBER OF GOTTLIEB AND URSULA

*Midnight. ELsie standing by their
bedside, weeping.*

GOTTLIEB.

The wind is roaring; the rushing rain
Is loud upon roof and window-pane,
As if the Wild Huntsman of Roden-
stein,

Boding evil to me and mine,
Were abroad to-night with his ghostly
train!

In the brief lulls of the tempest wild,
The dogs howl in the yard; and hark!
Some one is sobbing in the dark, 380
Here in the chamber!

ELSIE.

It is I.

URSULA.

Elsie! what ails thee, my poor child?

ELSIE.

I am disturbed and much distressed,
In thinking our dear Prince must die;
I cannot close mine eyes, nor rest.

GOTTLIEB.

What wouldst thou? In the Power
Divine
His healing lies, not in our own;
It is in the hand of God alone.

ELSIE.

Nay, He has put it into mine, 390
And into my heart!

GOTTLIEB.

Thy words are wild!

URSULA.

What dost thou mean? my child! my
child!

ELSIE.

That for our dear Prince Henry's sake
I will myself the offering make,
And give my life to purchase his.

URSULA.

Am I still dreaming, or awake?
Thou speakest carelessly of death,
And yet thou knowest not what it is.

ELSIE.

'T is the cessation of our breath.
Silent and motionless we lie ; 400
And no one knoweth more than this.
I saw our little Gertrude die,
She left off breathing, and no more
I smoothed the pillow beneath her
head.

She was more beautiful than before.
Like violets faded were her eyes ;
By this we knew that she was dead.
Through the open window looked the
skies

Into the chamber where she lay,
And the wind was like the sound of
wings, 410

As if angels came to bear her away.

Ah ! when I saw and felt these things,
I found it difficult to stay ;
I longed to die, as she had died,
And go forth with her, side by side.
The Saints are dead, the Martyrs dead,
And Mary, and our Lord ; and I
Would follow in humility
The way by them illumined !

URSULA.

My child ! my child ! thou must not
die ! 420

ELSIE.

Why should I live ? Do I not know
The life of woman is full of woe ?
Toiling on and on and on,
With breaking heart, and tearful eyes,
And silent lips, and in the soul
The secret longings that arise,
Which this world never satisfies !
Some more, some less, but of the
whole
Not one quite happy, no, not one !

URSULA.

It is the malediction of Eve ! 430

ELSIE.

In place of it, let me receive
The benediction of Mary, then.

GOTTLIEB.

Ah, woe is me! Ah, woe is me!
Most wretched am I among men!

URSULA.

Alas! that I should live to see
Thy death, beloved, and to stand
Above thy grave! Ah, woe the day!

ELSIE.

Thou wilt not see it. I shall lie
Beneath the flowers of another land,
For at Salerno, far away 440
Over the mountains, over the sea,
It is appointed me to die!
And it will seem no more to thee
Than if at the village on market-day
I should a little longer stay
Than I am wont.

URSULA.

Even as thou sayest!
And how my heart beats, when thou
stayest!
I cannot rest until my sight
Is satisfied with seeing thee. 449
What then, if thou wert dead?

GOTTLIEB.

Ah me!
Of our old eyes thou art the light!
The joy of our old hearts art thou!
And wilt thou die?

URSULA.

Not now! not now!

ELSIE.

Christ died for me, and shall not I
Be willing for my Prince to die?
You both are silent; you cannot
speak.
This said I at our Saviour's feast
After confession, to the priest,
And even he made no reply.
Does he not warn us all to seek 460
The happier, better land on high,
Where flowers immortal never wither;
And could he forbid me to go thither?

GOTTLIEB.

In God's own time, my heart's de-
light!
When He shall call thee, not before!

ELSIE.

I heard Him call. When Christ as-
cended
Triumphantly, from star to star,
He left the gates of heaven ajar.
I had a vision in the night,
And saw Him standing at the door 470
Of his Father's mansion, vast and
splendid,
And beckoning to me from afar.
I cannot stay!

GOTTLIEB.

She speaks almost
As if it were the Holy Ghost
Spake through her lips, and in her
stead!
What if this were of God?

URSULA.

Ah, then
Gainsay it dare we not.

GOTTLIEB.

Amen!
Elsie! the words that thou hast said
Are strange and new for us to hear,
And fill our hearts with doubt and
fear. 480
Whether it be a dark temptation
Of the Evil One, or God's inspira-
tion,
We in our blindness cannot say.
We must think upon it, and pray;
For evil and good it both resembles.
If it be of God, his will be done!
May He guard us from the Evil
One!
How hot thy hand is! how it trem-
bles!
Go to thy bed, and try to sleep.

URSULA.

Kiss me. Good night; and do not
weep! 490

ELSIE goes out.

Ah, what an awful thing is this!
I almost shuddered at her kiss,
As if a ghost had touched my cheek,
I am so childish and so weak!
As soon as I see the earliest gray
Of morning glimmer in the east,
I will go over to the priest,
And hear what the good man has to
say!

A VILLAGE CHURCH

*A woman kneeling at the confessional.*THE PARISH PRIEST, *from within.*

Go, sin no more! Thy penance o'er,
 A new and better life begin! 500
 God maketh thee forever free
 From the dominion of thy sin!
 Go, sin no more! He will restore
 The peace that filled thy heart before,
 And pardon thine iniquity!

*The woman goes out. The Priest comes
 forth, and walks slowly up and down
 the church.*

O blessèd Lord! how much I need
 Thy light to guide me on my way!
 So many hands, that, without heed,
 Still touch thy wounds, and make
 them bleed!

So many feet, that, day by day, 510
 Still wander from thy fold astray!
 Unless thou fill me with thy light,
 I cannot lead thy flock aright;
 Nor, without thy support, can bear
 The burden of so great a care,
 But am myself a castaway!

A pause.

The day is drawing to its close;
 And what good deeds, since first it
 rose,

Have I presented, Lord, to thee,
 As offerings of my ministry? 520
 What wrong repressed, what right
 maintained,

What struggle passed, what victory
 gained,

What good attempted and attained?
 Feeble, at best, is my endeavor!
 I see, but cannot reach, the height
 That lies forever in the light,
 And yet forever and forever,
 When seeming just within my grasp,
 I feel my feeble hands unclasp,
 And sink discouraged into night! 530
 For thine own purpose, thou hast sent
 The strife and the discouragement!

A pause.

Why stayest thou, Prince of Hohe-
 neck?

Why keep me pacing to and fro
 Amid these aisles of sacred gloom,
 Counting my footsteps as I go,
 And marking with each step a tomb?

Why should the world for thee make
 room,

And wait thy leisure and thy beck?
 Thou comest in the hope to hear 540
 Some word of comfort and of cheer.
 What can I say? I cannot give
 The counsel to do this and live;
 But rather, firmly to deny
 The tempter, though his power be
 strong,
 And, inaccessible to wrong,
 Still like a martyr live and die!

A pause.

The evening air grows dusk and
 brown;

I must go forth into the town,
 To visit beds of pain and death, 550
 Of restless limbs, and quivering
 breath,

And sorrowing hearts, and patient
 eyes

That see, through tears, the sun go
 down,

But never more shall see it rise.
 The poor in body and estate,
 The sick and the disconsolate,
 Must not on man's convenience wait.

*Goes out.**Enter LUCIFER, as a Priest.*

LUCIFER, *with a genuflection, mocking*
 This is the Black Pater-noster.

God was my foster,
 He fostered me 560

Under the book of the Palm-tree!

St. Michael was my dame.

He was born at Bethlehem,

He was made of flesh and blood.

God sent me my right food,

My right food, and shelter too,

That I may to yon kirk go,

To read upon yon sweet book

Which the mighty God of heaven
 shook.

Open, open, hell's gates! 570

Shut, shut, heaven's gates!

All the devils in the air

The stronger be, that hear the Black
 Prayer!

Looking round the church.

What a darksome and dismal place!
 I wonder that any man has the face

To call such a hole the House of the
 Lord,
 And the Gate of Heaven, — yet such
 is the word.
 Ceiling, and walls, and windows old,
 Covered with cobwebs, blackened with
 mould ;
 Dust on the pulpit, dust on the stairs,
 Dust on the benches, and stalls, and
 chairs! ⁵⁸¹
 The pulpit, from which such ponder-
 ous sermons
 Have fallen down on the brains of the
 Germans,
 With about as much real edification
 As if a great Bible, bound in lead,
 Had fallen, and struck them on the
 head ;
 And I ought to remember that sensa-
 tion !
 Here stands the holy-water stoup !
 Holy-water it may be to many,
 But to me, the veriest Liquor Gehe-
 nœ ! ⁵⁹⁰
 It smells like a filthy fast-day soup !
 Near it stands the box for the poor,
 With its iron padlock, safe and sure.
 I and the priest of the parish know
 Whither all these charities go ;
 Therefore to keep up the institu-
 tion,
 I will add my little contribution.

He puts in money.

Underneath this mouldering tomb,
 With statue of stone, and scutcheon of
 brass,
 Slumbers a great lord of the village.
 All his life was riot and pillage, ⁶⁰¹
 But at length, to escape the threatened
 doom
 Of the everlasting penal fire,
 He died in the dress of a mendicant
 friar,
 And bartered his wealth for a daily
 mass.
 But all that afterwards came to pass,
 And whether he finds it dull or plea-
 sant,
 Is kept a secret for the present,
 At his own particular desire.
 And here, in a corner of the wall, ⁶¹⁰
 Shadowy, silent, apart from all,
 With its awful portal open wide,
 And its latticed windows on either
 side,

And its step well worn by the bended
 knees
 Of one or two pious centuries,
 Stands the village confessional !
 Within it, as an honored guest,
 I will sit down awhile and rest !

Seats himself in the confessional.

Here sits the priest ; and faint and
 low, ⁶¹⁹
 Like the sighing of an evening breeze,
 Comes through these painted lattices
 The ceaseless sound of human woe ;
 Here, while her bosom aches and
 throbs
 With deep and agonizing sobs,
 That half are passion, half contri-
 tion,
 The luckless daughter of perdition
 Slowly confesses her secret shame !
 The time, the place, the lover's name !
 Here the grim murderer, with a groan,
 From his bruised conscience rolls the
 stone, ⁶³⁰
 Thinking that thus he can atone
 For ravages of sword and flame !

Indeed, I marvel, and marvel greatly,
 How a priest can sit here so sedately,
 Reading, the whole year out and in,
 Naught but the catalogue of sin,
 And still keep any faith whatever
 In human virtue ! Never ! never !

I cannot repeat a thousandth part
 Of the horrors and crimes and sins and
 woes ⁶⁴⁰
 That arise, when with palpitating
 throes
 The graveyard in the human heart
 Gives up its dead, at the voice of the
 priest,
 As if he were an archangel, at least.
 It makes a peculiar atmosphere,
 This odor of earthly passions and
 crimes,
 Such as I like to breathe, at times,
 And such as often brings me here
 In the hottest and most pestilential
 season.

To-day, I come for another reason : ⁶⁵⁰
 To foster and ripen an evil thought
 In a heart that is almost to madness
 wrought,
 And to make a murderer out of a
 prince,

"Therefore, to keep up the institution,
I will add my little contribution "

A sleight of hand I learned long since!
He comes. In the twilight he will
not see
The difference between his priest and
me!
In the same net was the mother
caught!

PRINCE HENRY, *entering and kneeling
at the confessional.*

Remorseful, penitent, and lowly,
I come to crave, O Father holy,
Thy benediction on my head. 660

LUCIFER.

The benediction shall be said
After confession, not before!
'T is a God-speed to the parting guest,
Who stands already at the door,
Sandalled with holiness, and dressed
In garments pure from earthly stain.
Meanwhile, hast thou searched well
thy breast?
Does the same madness fill thy brain?
Or have thy passion and unrest
Vanished forever from thy mind? 670

PRINCE HENRY.

By the same madness still made blind,
By the same passion still possessed,
I come again to the house of prayer,
A man afflicted and distressed!
As in a cloudy atmosphere,
Through unseen sluices of the air,
A sudden and impetuous wind
Strikes the great forest white with
fear,
And every branch, and bough, and
spray 679
Points all its quivering leaves one way,
And meadows of grass, and fields of
grain,
And the clouds above, and the slant-
ing rain,
And smoke from chimneys of the
town,
Yield themselves to it, and bow down,
So does this dreadful purpose press
Onward, with irresistible stress,
And all my thoughts and faculties,
Struck level by the strength of this,
From their true inclination turn,
And all stream forward to Salern! 690

LUCIFER.

Alas ! we are but eddies of dust,
Uplifted by the blast, and whirled
Along the highway of the world
A moment only, then to fall
Back to a common level all,
At the subsiding of the gust !

PRINCE HENRY.

O holy Father ! pardon in me
The oscillation of a mind
Unsteadfast, and that cannot find
Its centre of rest and harmony ! 700
For evermore before mine eyes
This ghastly phantom flits and flies,
And as a madman through a crowd,
With frantic gestures and wild cries,
It hurries onward, and aloud
Repeats its awful prophecies !
Weakness is wretchedness ! To be
strong
Is to be happy ! I am weak,
And cannot find the good I seek,
Because I feel and fear the wrong ! 710

LUCIFER.

Be not alarmed ! The Church is kind,
And in her mercy and her meekness
She meets half-way her children's
weakness,
Writes their transgressions in the dust !
Though in the Decalogue we find
The mandate written, "Thou shalt not
kill !"
Yet there are cases when we must.
In war, for instance, or from scathe
To guard and keep the one true Faith.
We must look at the Decalogue in the
light 720
Of an ancient statute, that was meant
For a mild and general application,
To be understood with the reservation
That in certain instances the Right
Must yield to the Expedient !
Thou art a Prince. If thou shouldst
die,
What hearts and hopes would prostrate
lie !
What noble deeds, what fair renown,
Into the grave with thee go down !
What acts of valor and courtesy 730
Remain undone, and die with thee !
Thou art the last of all thy race !
With thee a noble name expires,
And vanishes from the earth's face
The glorious memory of thy sires !

She is a peasant. In her veins
Flows common and plebeian blood ;
It is such as daily and hourly stains
The dust and the turf of battle plains,
By vassals shed, in a crimson flood, 740
Without reserve, and without reward,
At the slightest summons of their lord !
But thine is precious ; the fore-ap-
pointed

Blood of kings, of God's anointed !
Moreover, what has the world in store
For one like her, but tears and toil ?
Daughter of sorrow, serf of the soil,
A peasant's child and a peasant's wife,
And her soul within her sick and sore
With the roughness and barrenness of
life ! 750

I marvel not at the heart's recoil
From a fate like this, in one so tender,
Nor at its eagerness to surrender
All the wretchedness, want, and woe
That await it in this world below,
Nor the unutterable splendor
Of the world of rest beyond the skies.
So the Church sanctions the sacrifice :
Therefore inhale this healing balm,
And breathe this fresh life into thine ;
Accept the comfort and the calm 760
She offers, as a gift divine ;
Let her fall down and anoint thy feet
With the ointment costly and most
sweet
Of her young blood, and thou shalt
live.

PRINCE HENRY.

And will the righteous Heaven for-
give ?
No action, whether foul or fair,
Is ever done, but it leaves somewhere
A record, written by fingers ghostly,
As a blessing or a curse, and mostly 770
In the greater weakness or greater
strength
Of the acts which follow it, till at
length
The wrongs of ages are redressed,
And the justice of God made manifest !

LUCIFER.

In ancient records it is stated
That, whenever an evil deed is done.
Another devil is created
To scourge and torment the offending
one !
But evil is only good perverted,

And Lucifer, the bearer of Light, 780
But an angel fallen and deserted,
Thrust from his Father's house with
a curse
Into the black and endless night.

PRINCE HENRY.

If justice rules the universe,
From the good actions of good men
Angels of light should be begotten,
And thus the balance restored again.

LUCIFER.

Yes ; if the world were not so rotten,
And so given over to the Devil !

PRINCE HENRY.

But this deed, is it good or evil ? 790
Have I thine absolution free
To do it, and without restriction ?

LUCIFER.

Ay ; and from whatsoever sin
Lieth around it and within,
From all crimes in which it may in-
volve thee,
I now release thee and absolve thee !

PRINCE HENRY.

Give me thy holy benediction.

LUCIFER, *stretching forth his hand and
muttering.*

Maledictione perpetua
Maledicat vos
Pater eternus !

800

THE ANGEL, *with the Aeolian harp.*

Take heed ! take heed !
Noble art thou in thy birth,
By the good and the great of earth
Hast thou been taught !
Be noble in every thought
And in every deed !
Let not the illusion of thy senses
Betray thee to deadly offences.
Be strong ! be good ! be pure !
The right only shall endure, 810
All things else are but false pretences.
I entreat thee, I implore,
Listen no more
To the suggestions of an evil spirit,
That even now is there,
Making the foul seem fair,
And selfishness itself a virtue and a
merit !

A ROOM IN THE FARM-HOUSE

GOTTLIER.

It is decided ! For many days,
And nights as many, we have had

A nameless terror in our breast, 820
 Making us timid, and afraid
 Of God, and his mysterious ways!
 We have been sorrowful and sad;
 Much have we suffered, much have
 prayed
 That he would lead us as is best,
 And show us what his will required.
 It is decided; and we give
 Our child, O Prince, that you may live!

URSULA.

It is of God. He has inspired
 This purpose in her; and through
 pain, 830
 Out of a world of sin and woe,
 He takes her to Himself again.
 The mother's heart resists no longer;
 With the Angel of the Lord in vain
 It wrestled, for he was the stronger.

GOTTLIEB.

As Abraham offered long ago
 His son unto the Lord, and even
 The Everlasting Father in heaven
 Gave his, as a lamb unto the slaughter,
 So do I offer up my daughter! 840

URSULA *hides her face.*

ELSIE.

My life is little,
 Only a cup of water,
 But pure and limpid.
 Take it, O my Prince!
 Let it refresh you,
 Let it restore you.
 It is given willingly,
 It is given freely;
 May God bless the gift!

PRINCE HENRY.

And the giver! 850

GOTTLIEB.

Amen!

PRINCE HENRY

I accept it!

GOTTLIEB.

Where are the children?

URSULA.

They are already asleep.

GOTTLIEB.

What if they were dead?

IN THE GARDEN

ELSIE.

I have one thing to ask of you.

PRINCE HENRY.

What is it?

It is already granted.

ELSIE.

Promise me,

When we are gone from here, and on
 our way
 Are journeying to Salerno, you will
 not,

By word or deed, endeavor to dissuade
 me 860

And turn me from my purpose; but
 remember

That as a pilgrim to the Holy City
 Walks unmolested, and with thoughts
 of pardon

Occupied wholly, so would I ap-
 proach

The gates of Heaven, in this great
 jubilee,

With my petition, putting off from
 me

All thoughts of earth, as shoes from
 off my feet.

Promise me this.

PRINCE HENRY.

Thy words fall from thy lips
 Like roses from the lips of Angelo:
 and angels 865
 Might stoop to pick them up!

ELSIE.

Will you not promise?

PRINCE HENRY.

If ever we depart upon this journey,
 So long to one or both of us, I pro-
 mise.

ELSIE.

Shall we not go, then? Have you
 lifted me

Into the air, only to hurl me back
 Wounded upon the ground? and of-
 fered me

The waters of eternal life, to bid
 me

Drink the polluted puddles of this
 world?

PRINCE HENRY.

O Elsie! what a lesson thou dost teach
me!

The life which is, and that which is to
come,

Suspended hang in such nice equi-
poise

A breath disturbs the balance; and
that scale

In which we throw our hearts prepon-
derates,

And the other, like an empty one, flies
up,

III

A STREET IN STRASBURG

*Night. PRINCE HENRY wandering
alone, wrapped in a cloak.*

PRINCE HENRY.

Still is the night. The sound of feet
Has died away from the empty street,
And like an artisan, bending down
His head on his anvil, the dark town

"I alone, . . .
Wander and weep in my remorse!"

Sleeps, with a slumber deep and sweet.

Sleepless and restless, I alone,
In the dusk and damp of these walls
of stone,
Wander and weep in my remorse!

CRIER OF THE DEAD, *ringing a bell.*

Wake! wake!
All ye that sleep! 10
Pray for the Dead!
Pray for the Dead!

PRINCE HENRY.

Hark! with what accents loud and hoarse

This warder on the walls of death
Sends forth the challenge of his
breath!

I see the dead that sleep in the
grave!

They rise up and their garments wave,
Dimly and spectral, as they rise,
With the light of another world in
their eyes!

CRIER OF THE DEAD.

Wake! wake! 20
All ye that sleep!
Pray for the Dead!
Pray for the Dead!

PRINCE HENRY.

Why for the dead, who are at rest?
Pray for the living, in whose breast
The struggle between right and wrong
Is raging terrible and strong,
As when good angels war with devils!
This is the Master of the Revels,
Who, at Life's flowing feast, pro-
poses 30
The health of absent friends, and
pledges,
Not in bright goblets crowned with
roses,
And tinkling as we touch their edges,
But with his dismal, tinkling bell,
That mocks and mimics their funeral
knell!

CRIER OF THE DEAD.

Wake! wake!
All ye that sleep!
Pray for the Dead!
Pray for the Dead!

PRINCE HENRY.

Wake not, beloved! be thy sleep 40
Silent as night is, and as deep!
There walks a sentinel at thy gate
Whose heart is heavy and desolate,
And the heavings of whose bosom
number,
The respirations of thy slumber,
As if some strange, mysterious fate
Had linked two hearts in one, and
mine
Went madly wheeling about thine,
Only with wider and wilder sweep!

CRIER OF THE DEAD, *at a distance.*

Wake! wake! 50
All ye that sleep!
Pray for the Dead!
Pray for the Dead!

PRINCE HENRY.

Lo! with what depth of blackness
thrown

Against the clouds, far up the skies
The walls of the cathedral rise,
Like a mysterious grove of stone,
With fitful lights and shadows blend-
ing,

As from behind, the moon, ascending,
Lights its dim aisles and paths un-
known!

The wind is rising; but the boughs
Rise not and fall not with the wind,
That through their foliage sobs and
soughs;

Only the cloudy rack behind,
Drifting onward, wild and ragged,
Gives to each spire and buttress
jagged

A seeming motion undefined.
Below on the square, an armed
knight,

Still as a statue and as white,
Sits on his steed, and the moonbeams
quiver 70

Upon the points of his armor bright
As on the ripples of a river.
He lifts the visor from his cheek,
And beckons, and makes as he would
speak.

WALTER *the Minnesinger.*

Friend! can you tell me where alight
Thuringia's horsemen for the night?
For I have lingered in the rear,
And wander vainly up and down.

PRINCE HENRY.

I am a stranger in the town,
As thou art; but the voice I hear 80
Is not a stranger to mine ear.
Thou art Walter of the Vogelweid!

WALTER.

Thou hast guessed rightly; and thy
name
Is Henry of Hoheneck!

PRINCE HENRY.

Ay, the same.

WALTER, *embracing him*.

Come closer, closer to my side!
What brings thee hither? What po-
tent charm
Has drawn thee from thy German
farm
Into the old Alsatian city?

PRINCE HENRY.

A tale of wonder and of pity!
A wretched man, almost by stealth 90
Dragging my body to Salerno;
In the vain hope and search for health,
And destined never to return.
Already thou hast heard the rest.
But what brings thee, thus armed and
dight
In the equipments of a knight?

WALTER.

Dost thou not see upon my breast
The cross of the Crusaders shine?
My pathway leads to Palestine.

PRINCE HENRY.

Ah, would that way were also mine! 100
O noble poet! thou whose heart
Is like a nest of singing-birds
Rocked on the topmost bough of life,
Wilt thou, too, from our sky depart.
And in the clangor of the strife
Mingle the music of thy words?

WALTER.

My hopes are high, my heart is proud,
And like a trumpet long and loud,
Thither my thoughts all clang and
ring!
My life is in my hand, and lo! 110
I grasp and bend it as a bow,
And shoot forth from its trembling
string

An arrow, that shall be, perchance,
Like the arrow of the Israelite king
Shot from the window toward the
east,
That of the Lord's deliverance!

PRINCE HENRY.

My life, alas! is what thou seest!
O enviable fate! to be
Strong, beautiful, and armed like thee
With lyre and sword, with song and
steel; 120
A hand to smite, a heart to feel!
Thy heart, thy hand, thy lyre, thy
sword,
Thou givest all unto thy Lord;
While I, so mean and abject grown,
Am thinking of myself alone.

WALTER.

Be patient: Time will reinstate
Thy health and fortunes.

PRINCE HENRY.

'T is too late!
I cannot strive against my fate!

WALTER.

Come with me; for my steed is weary;
Our journey has been long and
dreary, 130
And, dreaming of his stall, he dints
With his impatient hoofs the flints.

PRINCE HENRY, *aside*.

I am ashamed in my disgrace,
To look into that noble face!
To-morrow, Walter, let it be.

WALTER.

To-morrow, at the dawn of day,
I shall again be on my way.
Come with me to the hostelry,
For I have many things to say.
Our journey into Italy 140
Perchance together we may make;
Wilt thou not do it for my sake?

PRINCE HENRY.

A sick man's pace would but impede
Thine eager and impatient speed.
Besides, my pathway leads me round
To Hirschau, in the forest's bound,
Where I assemble man and steed,
And all things for my journey's need
They go out.

LUCIFER, *flying over the city.*

Sleep, sleep, O city! till the light
Wake you to sin and crime again, 150
Whilst on your dreams, like dismal
rain,

I scatter downward through the night
My maledictions dark and deep.

I have more martyrs in your walls
Than God has; and they cannot sleep;
They are my bondsmen and my thralls;
Their wretched lives are full of pain,
Wild agonies of nerve and brain;
And every heart-beat, every breath,

Is a convulsion worse than death! 160

Sleep, sleep, O city! though within
The circuit of your walls there be
No habitation free from sin,
And all its nameless misery;
The aching heart, the aching head,
Grief for the living and the dead,
And foul corruption of the time,
Disease, distress, and want, and woe,
And crimes, and passions that may
grow

Until they ripen into crime! 170

SQUARE IN FRONT OF THE CATHE- DRAL

Easter Sunday. FRIAR CUTHBERT
*preaching to the crowd from a pulpit
in the open air.* PRINCE HENRY and
ELSIE *crossing the square.*

PRINCE HENRY.

This is the day, when from the dead
Our Lord arose; and everywhere,
Out of their darkness and despair,
Triumphant over fears and foes,
The hearts of his disciples rose
When to the women, standing near,
The Angel in shining vesture said,
"The Lord is risen; he is not here!"
And, mindful that the day is come,
On all the hearths in Christendom 180
The fires are quenched, to be again
Rekindled from the sun, that high
Is dancing in the cloudless sky.
The churches are all decked with
flowers,

The salutations among men
Are but the Angel's words divine,
"Christ is arisen!" and the bells
Catch the glad murmur, as it swells,
And chant together in their towers.

All hearts are glad; and free from
care 190

The faces of the people shine.
See what a crowd is in the square,
Gayly and gallantly arrayed!

ELSIE.

Let us go back; I am afraid!

PRINCE HENRY.

Nay, let us mount the church-steps
here,

Under the doorway's sacred shadow;
We can see all things, and be freer
From the crowd that madly heaves
and presses!

ELSIE.

What a gay pageant! what bright
dresses!

It looks like a flower-besprinkled
meadow. 200

What is that yonder on the square?

PRINCE HENRY.

A pulpit in the open air,
And a Friar, who is preaching to the
crowd

In a voice so deep and clear and loud,
That, if we listen, and give heed,
His lowest words will reach the ear.

FRIAR CUTHBERT, *gesticulating and
cracking a postilion's whip.*

What ho! good people! do you not
hear?

Dashing along at the top of his speed,
Booted and spurred, on his jaded steed,
A courier comes with words of
cheer. 210

Courier! what is the news, I pray?
"Christ is arisen!" Whence come
you? "From court."

Then I do not believe it; you say it in
sport.

Cracks his whip again.

Ah, here comes another, riding this
way;

We soon shall know what he has to
say.

Courier! what are the tidings to-day?
"Christ is arisen!" Whence come
you? "From town."

Then I do not believe it; away with
you, clown.

Cracks his whip more violently.

"Christ is arisen!"

And here comes a third, who is spur-
ring amain;
What news do you bring, with your
loose-hanging rein, ²³⁰
Your spurs wet with blood, and your
bridle with foam?
"Christ is arisen!" Whence come
you? "From Rome."
Ah, now I believe. He is risen, in-
deed.
Ride on with the news, at the top of
your speed!

Great applause among the crowd.

To come back to my text! When the
news was first spread
That Christ was arisen indeed from the
dead,
Very great was the joy of the angels
in heaven;
And as great the dispute as to who
should carry
The tidings thereof to the Virgin Mary,
Pierced to the heart with sorrows
seven. ²³⁰
Old Father Adam was first to pro-
pose,
As being the author of all our woes;
But he was refused, for fear, said they,
He would stop to eat apples on the
way!
Abel came next, but petitioned in vain,
Because he might meet with his
brother Cain!
Noah, too, was refused, lest his weak-
ness for wine
Should delay him at every tavern-sign;

And John the Baptist could not get a
vote,
On account of his old-fashioned camel's
hair coat; ²⁴⁰
And the Penitent Thief, who died on
the cross,
Was reminded that all his bones were
broken!
Till at last, when each in turn had
spoken,
The company being still at loss,
The Angel, who rolled away the stone,
Was sent to the sepulchre, all alone.
And filled with glory that gloomy
prison,
And said to the Virgin, "The Lord is
arisen!"

The Cathedral bells ring.

But hark! the bells are beginning to
chime; ²⁴⁹
And I feel that I am growing hoarse.
I will put an end to my discourse,
And leave the rest for some other time.
For the bells themselves are the best
of preachers;
Their brazen lips are learned teachers,
From their pulpits of stone, in the
upper air,
Sounding aloft, without crack or flaw,
Shriller than trumpets under the Law,
Now a sermon, and now a prayer.
The clangorous hammer is the tongue,
This way, that way, beaten and swung,
That from mouth of brass, as from
Mouth of Gold, ²⁵²
May be taught the Testaments, New
and Old.

And above it the great cross-beam of
wood
Representeth the Holy Rood,
Upon which, like the bell, our hopes
are hung.
And the wheel wherewith it is swayed
and rung
Is the mind of man, that round and
round
Sways, and maketh the tongue to
sound!
And the rope, with its twisted cord-
age three,
Denoteth the Scriptural Trinity ²⁷⁰
Of Morals, and Symbols, and His-
tory;
And the upward and downward mo-
tion show
That we touch upon matters high and
low;
And the constant change and transmu-
tation
Of action and of contemplation,
Downward, the Scripture brought
from on high,
Upward, exalted again to the sky;
Downward, the literal interpretation,
Upward, the Vision and Mystery!

And now, my hearers, to make an
end, ²⁸⁰
I have only one word more to say;
In the church, in honor of Easter day
Will be presented a Miracle Play;
And I hope you will all have the grace
to attend.
Christ bring us at last to his felicity!
Pax vobiscum! et Benedicite!

IN THE CATHEDRAL

CHANT.

Kyrie Eleison!
Christe Eleison!

ELSIE.

I am at home here in my Father's
house!
These paintings of the Saints upon the
walls ²⁹⁰
Have all familiar and benignant faces.

PRINCE HENRY.

The portraits of the family of God!
Thine own hereafter shall be placed
among them.

ELSIE.

How very grand it is and wonderful!
Never have I beheld a church so splen-
did!
Such columns, and such arches, and
such windows,
So many tombs and statues in the
chapels,
And under them so many confession-
als.
They must be for the rich. I should
not like
To tell my sins in such a church as
this. ³⁰⁰
Who built it?

PRINCE HENRY.

A great master of his craft,
Erwin von Steinbach; but not he
alone,
For many generations labored with
him.
Children that came to see these Saints
in stone,
As day by day out of the blocks they
rose,
Grew old and died, and still the work
went on,
And on, and on, and is not yet com-
pleted.
The generation that succeeds our own
Perhaps may finish it. The architect
Built his great heart into these sculp-
tured stones, ³¹⁰
And with him toiled his children, and
their lives
Were builded, with his own, into the
walls,
As offerings unto God. You see that
statue
Fixing its joyous, but deep-wrinkled
eyes
Upon the Pillars of the Angels yonder.
That is the image of the master, carved
By the fair hand of his own child,
Sabina.

ELSIE.

How beautiful is the column that he
looks at!

PRINCE HENRY.

That, too, she sculptured. At the
base of it
Stand the Evangelists; above their
heads ³²⁰

Four Angels blowing upon marble
trumpets,
And over them the blessed Christ, sur-
rounded
By his attendant ministers, upholding
The instruments of his passion.

ELSIE.

O my Lord!
Would I could leave behind me upon
earth
Some monument to thy glory, such as
this!

PRINCE HENRY.

A greater monument than this thou
leavest
In thine own life, all purity and love!
See, too, the Rose, above the western
portal
Resplendent with a thousand gorgeous
colors,
The perfect flower of Gothic loveli-
ness! 330

ELSIE.

And, in the gallery, the long line of
statues,
Christ with his twelve Apostles watch-
ing us!

A BISHOP *in armor, booted and
spurred, passes with his train.*

PRINCE HENRY.

But come away; we have not time to
look.
The crowd already fills the church,
and yonder
Upon a stage, a herald with a trum-
pet,
Clad like the Angel Gabriel, proclaims
The Mystery that will now be repre-
sented.

THE NATIVITY

A MIRACLE-PLAY

INTROITUS

PRÆCO.

Come, good people, all and each,
Come and listen to our speech! 340
In your presence here I stand,
With a trumpet in my hand,

To announce the Easter Play,
Which we represent to-day!
First of all we shall rehearse,
In our action and our verse,
The Nativity of our Lord,
As written in the old record
Of the Protevangelion,
So that he who reads may run! 350
Blows his trumpet.

I. HEAVEN.

MERCY, *at the feet of God.*

Have pity, Lord! be not afraid
To save mankind, whom thou hast
made,
Nor let the souls that were betrayed
Perish eternally!

JUSTICE.

It cannot be, it must not be!
When in the garden placed by thee,
The fruit of the forbidden tree
He ate, and he must die!

MERCY.

Have pity, Lord! let penitence
Atone for disobedience, 360
Nor let the fruit of man's offence
Be endless misery!

JUSTICE.

What penitence proportionate
Can e'er be felt for sin so great?
Of the forbidden fruit he ate,
And damned must he be!

GOD.

He shall be saved, if that within
The bounds of earth one free from sin
Be found, who for his kith and kin
Will suffer martyrdom. 370

THE FOUR VIRTUES.

Lord! we have searched the world
around,
From centre to the utmost bound,
But no such mortal can be found;
Despairing, back we come.

WISDOM.

No mortal, but a God made man,
Can ever carry out this plan,
Achieving what none other can,
Salvation unto all!

GOD.

Go, then, O my belovèd Son!
It can by thee alone be done; 380
By thee the victory shall be won
O'er Satan and the Fall!

*Here the ANGEL GABRIEL shall leave
Paradise and fly towards the earth;
the jaws of Hell open below, and the
Devils walk about, making a great
noise.*

II. MARY AT THE WELL

MARY.

Along the garden walk, and thence
Through the wicket in the garden
fence,
I steal with quiet pace,
My pitcher at the well to fill,
That lies so deep and cool and still
In this sequestered place.

These sycamores keep guard around;
I see no face, I hear no sound, 390
Save bubblings of the spring,
And my companions, who, within,
The threads of gold and scarlet spin,
And at their labor sing.

THE ANGEL GABRIEL.

Hail, Virgin Mary, full of grace!
*Here MARY looketh around her, trem-
bling, and then saith:*

MARY.

Who is it speaketh in this place,
With such a gentle voice?

GABRIEL.

The Lord of heaven is with thee now!
Blessèd among all women thou,
Who art his holy choice! 400

MARY, *setting down the pitcher.*

What can this mean? No one is near,
And yet, such sacred words I hear,
I almost fear to stay.

*Here the ANGEL, appearing to her, shall
say:*

GABRIEL.

Fear not, O Mary! but believe!
For thou, a Virgin, shalt conceive
A child this very day.

Fear not, O Mary! from the sky
The majesty of the Most High
Shall overshadow thee!

MARY.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord! 410
According to thy holy word,
So be it unto me!

*Here the Devils shall again make a
great noise, under the stage.*

III. THE ANGELS OF THE SEVEN PLANETS, BEARING THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

THE ANGELS.

The Angels of the Planets Seven,
Across the shining fields of heaven
The natal star we bring!
Dropping our sevenfold virtues down
As priceless jewels in the crown
Of Christ, our new-born King.

RAPHAEL.

I am the Angel of the Sun,
Whose flaming wheels began to run
When God's almighty breath 421
Said to the darkness and the Night,
Let there be light! and there was
light!
I bring the gift of Faith.

ONAFIEL.

I am the Angel of the Moon,
Darkened to be rekindled soon
Beneath the azure cope!
Nearest to earth, it is my ray
That best illumines the midnight way:
I bring the gift of Hope! 430

ANAEL.

The Angel of the Star of Love,
The Evening Star, that shines above
The place where lovers be,
Above all happy hearths and homes,
On roofs of thatch, or golden domes,
I give him Charity!

ZOBIACHEL.

The Planet Jupiter is mine!
The mightiest star of all that shine,
Except the sun alone!
He is the High Priest of the Dove, 440
And sends, from his great throne
above,
Justice, that shall atone!

"What can this mean? No one is near,
And yet, such sacred words I hear"

MICHAEL.

The Planet Mercury, whose place
Is nearest to the sun in space,
Is my allotted sphere!
And with celestial ardor swift
I bear upon my hands the gift
Of heavenly Prudence here!

URIEL.

I am the Minister of Mars, 449
The strongest star among the stars!
My songs of power prelude
The march and battle of man's life,
And for the suffering and the strife,
I give him Fortitude!

ORIFEL.

The Angel of the uttermost
Of all the shining, heavenly host,
From the far-off expanse

Of the Saturnian, endless space
I bring the last, the crowning grace,
The gift of Temperance! 450

*A sudden light shines from the windows
of the stable in the village below.*

IV. THE WISE MEN OF THE EAST

*The stable of the Inn. The VIRGIN and
CHILD. Three Gypsy Kings, GAS-
PAR, MELCHIOR, and BELSHAZZAR,
shall come in.*

GASPAR.

Hail to thee, Jesus of Nazareth!
Though in a manger thou draw
breath,
Thou art greater than Life and Death,
Greater than Joy or Woe!

This cross upon the line of life
Portendeth struggle, toil, and strife,
And through a region with peril rife
In darkness shalt thou go!

MELCHIOR.

Hail to thee, King of Jerusalem!
Though humbly born in Bethlehem,
A sceptre and a diadem
Await thy brow and hand! 471
The sceptre is a simple reed,
The crown will make thy temples
bleed,
And in thine hour of greatest need,
Abashed thy subjects stand!

BELSHAZZAR.

Hail to thee, Christ of Christendom!
O'er all the earth thy kingdom come!
From distant Trebizond to Rome
Thy name shall men adore! 480
Peace and good-will among all men,
The Virgin has returned again,
Returned the old Saturnian reign
And Golden Age once more.

THE CHILD CHRIST.

Jesus, the Son of God, am I,
Born here to suffer and to die
According to the prophecy,
That other men may live!

THE VIRGIN.

And now these clothes, that wrapped
Him, take
And keep them precious, for his sake;
Our benediction thus we make, 491
Naught else have we to give.
*She gives them swaddling-clothes, and
they depart.*

V. THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

*Here JOSEPH shall come in, leading an
ass, on which are seated MARY and
the CHILD.*

MARY.

Here will we rest us, under these
O'erhanging branches of the trees,
Where robins chant their Litanies
And canticles of joy.

JOSEPH.

My saddle-girths have given way
With trudging through the heat to-
day;

To you I think it is but play
To ride and hold the boy. 500

MARY.

Hark! how the robins shout and sing,
As if to hail their infant King!
I will alight at yonder spring
To wash his little coat.

JOSEPH.

And I will hobble well the ass,
Lest, being loose upon the grass,
He should escape; for, by the mass,
He's nimble as a goat.

*Here MARY shall alight and go to the
spring.*

MARY.

O Joseph! I am much afraid,
For men are sleeping in the shade; 510
I fear that we shall be waylaid,
And robbed and beaten sore!
*Here a band of robbers shall be seen sleep-
ing, two of whom shall rise and come
forward.*

DUMACHUS.

Cock's soul! deliver up your gold!

JOSEPH.

I pray you, Sirs, let go your hold!
You see that I am weak and old,
Of wealth I have no store.

DUMACHUS.

Give up your money!

TITUS.

Prithee cease.
Let these people go in peace.

DUMACHUS.

First let them pay for their release,
And then go on their way. 520

TITUS.

These forty groats I give in fee,
If thou wilt only silent be.

MARY.

May God be merciful to thee
Upon the Judgment Day!

JESUS.

When thirty years shall have gone by,
I at Jerusalem shall die,

By Jewish hands exalted high
On the accursèd tree,
Then on my right and my left side,
These thieves shall both be crucified,
And Titus thenceforth shall abide 531
In paradise with me.

*Here a great rumor of trumpets and
horses, like the noise of a king with
his army, and the robbers shall take
flight.*

VI. THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

KING HEROD.

Petz-tausend! Himmel-sacrament!
Filled am I with great wonderment
At this unwelcome news!
Am I not Herod? Who shall dare
My crown to take, my sceptre bear,
As king among the Jews?

*Here he shall stride up and down and
flourish his sword.*

What ho! I fain would drink a can
Of the strong wine of Canaan! 540

The wine of Helbon bring
I purchased at the Fair of Tyre,
As red as blood, as hot as fire,
And fit for any king!

He quaffe great goblets of wine.

Now at the window will I stand,
While in the street the armed band
The little children slay;
The babe just born in Bethlehem
Will surely slaughtered be with
them,
Nor live another day! 550

*Here a voice of lamentation shall be
heard in the street.*

RACHEL.

O wicked king! O cruel speed!
To do this most unrighteous deed!
My children all are slain!

HEROD.

Ho seneschal! another cup!
With wine of Sorek fill it up!
I would a bumper drain!

RAHAB.

May maledictions fall and blast
Thyself and lineage, to the last
Of all thy kith and kin!

HEROD.

Another goblet! quick! and stir 560
Pomegranate juice and drops of myrrh
And calamus therein!

"And now these clothes, that wrapped Him, take
And keep them precious, for his sake"

SOLDIERS, *in the street.*

Give up thy child into our hands!
It is King Herod who commands
That he should thus be slain!

THE NURSE MEDUSA.

O monstrous men! What have ye
done!
It is King Herod's only son
That ye have cleft in twain!

HEROD.

Ah, luckless day! What words of fear
Are these that smite upon my ear 570
With such a doleful sound!
What torments rack my heart and
head!
Would I were dead! would I were
dead,
And buried in the ground!
*He falls down and writhes as though
eaten by worms. Hell opens, and
SATAN and ASTAROTH come forth,
and drag him down.*

VII. JESUS AT PLAY WITH HIS SCHOOL-MATES

JESUS.

The shower is over. Let us play,
And make some sparrows out of clay,
Down by the river's side.

JUDAS.

See, how the stream has overflowed
Its banks, and o'er the meadow road
Is spreading far and wide! 580
*They draw water out of the river by
channels, and form little pools. JESUS
makes twelve sparrows of clay, and
the other boys do the same.*

JESUS.

Look! look how prettily I make
These little sparrows by the lake
Bend down their necks and drink!
Now will I make them sing and soar
So far, they shall return no more
Unto this river's brink.

JUDAS.

That canst thou not! They are but
clay,
They cannot sing, nor fly away
Above the meadow lands!

JESUS.

Fly, fly! ye sparrows! you are
free! 590
And while you live, remember me,
Who made you with my hands.
*Here JESUS shall clap his hands, and the
sparrows shall fly away, chirruping.*

JUDAS.

Thou art a sorcerer, I know;
Oft has my mother told me so,
I will not play with thee!
He strikes JESUS in the right side.

JESUS.

Ah, Judas! thou hast smote my side,
And when I shall be crucified,
There shall I pierced be!
Here JOSEPH shall come in and say:

JOSEPH.

Ye wicked boys! why do ye play,
And break the holy Sabbath day? 600
What, think ye, will your mothers say
To see you in such plight!
In such a sweat and such a heat,
With all that mud upon your feet!
There's not a beggar in the street
Makes such a sorry sight!

VIII. THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

*The RABBI BEN ISRAEL, sitting on a
high stool, with a long beard, and
a rod in his hand.*

RABBI.

I am the Rabbi Ben Israel,
Throughout this village known full
well,
And, as my scholars all will tell,
Learned in things divine; 610
The Cabala and Talmud hoar
Than all the prophets prize I more,
For water is all Bible lore,
But Mishna is strong wine.

My fame extends from West to East,
And always, at the Purim feast,
I am as drunk as any beast
That wallows in his sty;
The wine it so elateth me,
That I no difference can see 620
Between "Accursèd Haman be!"
And "Blessèd be Mordecai!"

Come hither, Judas Iscariot;
Say, if thy lesson thou hast got
From the Rabbinical Book or not.
Why howl the dogs at night?

JUDAS.

In the Rabbinical Book, it saith
The dogs howl, when with icy breath
Great Sammael, the Angel of Death,
Takes through the town his flight!

RABBI.

Well, boy! now say, if thou art wise,
When the Angel of Death, who is full
of eyes, 332
Comes where a sick man dying lies,
What doth he to the wight?

JUDAS.

He stands beside him, dark and tall,
Holding a sword, from which doth
fall
Into his mouth a drop of gall,
And so he turneth white.

RABBI.

And now, my Judas, say to me 639
What the great Voices Four may be,
That quite across the world do flee.
And are not heard by men?

JUDAS.

The Voice of the Sun in heaven's
dome,
The Voice of the Murmuring of
Rome,
The Voice of a Soul that goeth home,
And the Angel of the Rain!

RABBI.

Right are thine answers every one!
Now little Jesus, the carpenter's son,
Let us see how thy task is done;
Canst thou thy letters say? 650

JESUS.

Aleph.

RABBI.

What next? Do not stop yet!
Go on with all the alphabet.
Come, Aleph, Beth; dost thou forget?
Cock's soul! thou 'dst rather play!

JESUS.

What Aleph means I fain would
know,
Before I any farther go!

RABBI.

Oh, by Saint Peter! wouldst thou so?
Come hither, boy, to me.
As surely as the letter Jod 659
Once cried aloud, and spake to God,
So surely shalt thou feel this rod,
And punished shalt thou be!

*Here RABBI BEN ISRAEL shall lift up
his rod to strike JESUS, and his right
arm shall be paralyzed.*

IX. CROWNED WITH FLOWERS

*JESUS sitting among his playmates
crowned with flowers as their King.*

BOYS.

We spread our garments on the
ground!
With fragrant flowers thy head is
crowned
While like a guard we stand around,
And hail thee as our King!
Thou art the new King of the Jews!
Nor let the passers-by refuse
To bring that homage which men use
To majesty to bring. 670
*Here a traveller shall go by, and the
boys shall lay hold of his garments and
say:*

BOYS.

Come hither! and all reverence pay
Unto our monarch, crowned to-day!
Then go rejoicing on your way,
In all prosperity!

TRAVELLER.

Hail to the King of Bethlehem,
Who weareth in his diadem
The yellow crocus for the gem
Of his authority!

*He passes by: and others come in, bear-
ing on a litter a sick child.*

BOYS.

Set down the litter and draw near!
The King of Bethlehem is here! 680
What ails the child, who seems to
fear
That we shall do him harm?

THE BEARERS.

He climbed up to the robin's nest,
And out there darted, from his rest,

A serpent with a crimson crest,
And stung him in the arm.

JESUS.

Bring him to me, and let me feel
The wounded place; my touch can
heal

The sting of serpents, and can steal
The poison from the bite! 690

*He touches the wound, and the boy be-
gins to cry.*

Cease to lament! I can foresee
That thou hereafter known shalt be,
Among the men who follow me,
As Simon the Canaanite!

EPILOGUE.

In the after part of the day
Will be represented another play,
Of the Passion of our Blessed Lord,
Beginning directly after Nones!
At the close of which we shall ac-
cord,

By way of benison and reward, 700
The sight of a holy Martyr's bones!

IV

THE ROAD TO HIRSCHAU

PRINCE HENRY and ELSIE, with their
attendants on horseback.

ELSIE.

Onward and onward the highway
runs to the distant city, impa-
tiently bearing

Tidings of human joy and disaster, of
love and of hate, of doing and
daring!

PRINCE HENRY.

This life of ours is a wild æolian harp
of many a joyous strain,
But under them all there runs a loud
perpetual wail, as of souls in
pain.

ELSIE.

Faith alone can interpret life, and the
heart that aches and bleeds with
the stigma

Of pain, alone bears the likeness of
Christ, and can comprehend its
dark enigma.

PRINCE HENRY.

Man is selfish, and seeketh pleasure
with little care of what may
betide,

Else why am I travelling here beside
thee, a demon that rides by an
angel's side?

ELSIE.

All the hedges are white with dust,
and the great dog under the
creaking wain

Hangs his head in the lazy heat,
while onward the horses toil
and strain. 10

PRINCE HENRY.

Now they stop at the wayside inn,
and the wagoner laughs with
the landlord's daughter,

While out of the dripping trough the
horses distend their leathern
sides with water.

ELSIE.

All through life there are wayside
inns, where man may refresh
his soul with love;

Even the lowest may quench his thirst
at rivulets fed by springs from
above.

PRINCE HENRY.

Yonder, where rises the cross of stone,
our journey along the highway
ends,

And over the fields, by a bridle path,
down into the broad green val-
ley descends.

ELSIE.

I am not sorry to leave behind the
beaten road with its dust and
heat;

The air will be sweeter far, and the
turf will be softer under our
horses' feet.

They turn down a green lane.

ELSIE.

Sweet is the air with the budding
haws, and the valley stretching
for miles below

Is white with blossoming cherry-trees,
as if just covered with lightest
snow. 20

PRINCE HENRY.

Over our heads a white cascade is
gleaming against the distant hill;
We cannot hear it, nor see it move,
but it hangs like a banner when
winds are still.

ELSIE.

Damp and cool is this deep ravine,
and cool the sound of the brook
by our side!

What is this castle that rises above
us, and lords it over a land so
wide?

PRINCE HENRY.

It is the home of the Counts of Calva;
well have I known these scenes
of old,
Well I remember each tower and tur-
ret, remember the brooklet, the
wood, and the wold.

ELSIE.

Hark! from the little village below us
the bells of the church are ring-
ing for rain!
Priests and peasants in long procession
come forth and kneel on the
arid plain.

PRINCE HENRY.

They have not long to wait, for I see
in the south uprising a little
cloud,
That before the sun shall be set will
cover the sky above us as with
a shroud. 30

They pass on.

THE CONVENT OF HIRSCHAU IN THE BLACK FOREST

*The Convent cellar. FRIAR CLAUS
comes in with a light and a basket of
empty flagons.*

FRIAR CLAUS.

I always enter this sacred place
With a thoughtful, solemn, and rever-
ent pace,
Pausing long enough on each stair
To breathe an ejaculatory prayer,
And a benediction on the vines
That produce these various sorts of
wines!
For my part, I am well content
That we have got through with the
tedious Lent!
Fasting is all very well for those
Who have to contend with invisible
foes;
But I am quite sure it does not
agree
With a quiet, peaceable man like
me,

"I always enter this sacred place
With a thoughtful, solemn, and reverent pace"

Who am not of that nervous and
meagre kind,
That are always distressed in body
and mind!

And at times it really does me good
To come down among this brother-
hood,
Dwelling forever underground,
Silent, contemplative, round and
sound;

Each one old, and brown with mould,
But filled to the lips with the ardor of
youth, 50
With the latent power and love of
truth,
And with virtues fervent and mani-
fold.

I have heard it said, that at Easter-tide
When buds are swelling on every side,
And the sap begins to move in the
vine,

Then in all cellars, far and wide,
The oldest as well as the newest wine
Begins to stir itself, and ferment,
With a kind of revolt and discontent
At being so long in darkness pent, 60
And fain would burst from its sombre
tun

To bask on the hillside in the sun;
As in the bosom of us poor friars,
The tumult of half-subdued desires
For the world that we have left be-
hind
Disturbs at times all peace of mind!
And now that we have lived through
Lent,

My duty it is, as often before,
To open awhile the prison-door,
And give these restless spirits vent. 70

Now here is a cask that stands alone,
And has stood a hundred years or
more,
Its beard of cobwebs, long and hoar,
Trailing and sweeping along the floor,
Like Barbarossa, who sits in his cave,
Taciturn, somber, sedate, and grave,
Till his beard has grown through the
table of stone!

It is of the quick and not of the dead!
In its veins the blood is hot and red,
And a heart still beats in those ribs of
oak 80

That time may have tamed, but has
not broke!

It comes from Bacharach on the Rhine,
Is one of the three best kinds of wine,
And costs some hundred florins the
ohm;

But that I do not consider dear,
When I remember that every year
Four butts are sent to the Pope of
Rome.

And whenever a goblet thereof I drain,
The old rhyme keeps running in my
brain:

At Bacharach on the Rhine, 90
At Hochheim on the Main,
And at Würzburg on the Stein,
Grow the three best kinds of wine!

They are all good wines, and better far
Than those of the Neckar, or those of
the Ahr.

In particular, Würzburg well may
boast

Of its blessed wine of the Holy Ghost,
Which of all wines I like the most.
This I shall draw for the Abbot's drink-
ing,

Who seems to be much of my way of
thinking. 100

Fills a flagon.

Ah! how the streamlet laughs and
sings!

What a delicious fragrance springs
From the deep flagon, while it fills,
As of hyacinths and daffodils!
Between this cask and the Abbot's lips
Many have been the sips and slips;
Many have been the draughts of wine,
On their way to his, that have stopped
at mine;

And many a time my soul has hankered
For a deep draught out of his silver
tankard, 110

When it should have been busy with
other affairs,

Less with its longings and more with
its prayers.

But now there is no such awkward
condition,

No danger of death and eternal perdi-
tion;

So here's to the Abbot and Brothers
all,

Who dwell in this convent of Peter
and Paul!

He drinks.

O cordial delicious! O soother of pain!
It flashes like sunshine into my brain!
A benison rest on the Bishop who sends
Such a fudder of wine as this to his
friends! 120

And now a flagon for such as may ask
A draught from the noble Bacharach
cask,

And I will be gone, though I know
full well

The cellar's a cheerfuller place than
the cell.

Behold where he stands, all sound and
good,

Brown and old in his oaken hood;

Silent he seems externally

As any Carthusian monk may be;

But within, what a spirit of deep un-
rest!

What a seething and simmering in his
breast! 130

As if the heaving of his great heart

Would burst his belt of oak apart!

Let me unloose this button of wood,

And quiet a little his turbulent mood.

Sets it running.

See! how its currents gleam and shine,
As if they had caught the purple
hues

Of autumn sunsets on the Rhine,
Descending and mingling with the
dews;

Or as if the grapes were stained with
the blood

Of the innocent boy, who, some years
back, 140

Was taken and crucified by the Jews,
In that ancient town of Bacharach;

Perdition upon those infidel Jews,

In that ancient town of Bacharach!

The beautiful town, that gives us wine
With the fragrant odor of Musca-
dine!

I should deem it wrong to let this pass
Without first touching my lips to the
glass,

For here in the midst of the current I
stand

Like the stone Pfalz in the midst of
the river, 150

Taking toll upon either hand,

And much more grateful to the giver.

He drinks.

Here, now, is a very inferior kind,
Such as in any town you may find,

Such as one might imagine would
suit

The rascal who drank wine out of a
boot.

And, after all, it was not a crime,

For he won thereby Dorf Hüffelsheim.

A jolly old toper! who at a poll

Could drink a postilion's jack-boot
full, 160

And ask with a laugh, when that was
done,

If the fellow had left the other one!

This wine is as good as we can afford

To the friars, who sit at the lower
board,

And cannot distinguish bad from good,

And are far better off than if they
could,

Being rather the rude disciples of beer

Than of anything more refined and
dear!

Fills the flagon and departs.

THE SCRIPTORIUM

FRIAR PACIFICUS *transcribing and
illuminating.*

FRIAR PACIFICUS.

It is growing dark! Yet one line
more, 165

And then my work for to-day is o'er.

I come again to the name of the Lord!

Ere I that awful name record,

That is spoken so lightly among men,

Let me pause awhile, and wash my pen;

Pure from blemish and blot must it be

When it writes that word of mystery!

Thus have I labored on and on,

Nearly through the Gospel of John.

Can it be that from the lips

Of this same gentle Evangelist, 180

That Christ himself perhaps has kissed,

Came the dread Apocalypse!

It has a very awful look,

As it stands there at the end of the
book,

Like the sun in an eclipse.

Ah me! when I think of that vision
divine,

Think of writing it, line by line,

I stand in awe of the terrible curse,

Like the trump of doom, in the clos-
ing verse!

God forgive me ! if ever I ¹⁹⁰
 Take aught from the book of that
 Prophecy,
 Lest my part too should be taken away
 From the Book of Life on the Judg-
 ment Day.

This is well written, though I say it !
 I should not be afraid to display it
 In open day, on the selfsame shelf
 With the writings of St. Thecla herself,
 Or of Theodosius, who of old
 Wrote the Gospels in letters of gold !
 That goodly folio standing yonder, ²⁰⁰
 Without a single blot or blunder,
 Would not bear away the palm from
 mine,
 If we should compare them line for
 line.

There, now, is an initial letter !
 Saint Ulric himself never made a
 better !
 Finished down to the leaf and the
 snail,
 Down to the eyes on the peacock's tail !
 And now, as I turn the volume over,
 And see what lies between cover and
 cover,
 What treasures of art these pages
 hold, ²¹⁰
 All ablaze with crimson and gold,
 God forgive me ! I seem to feel
 A certain satisfaction steal
 Into my heart, and into my brain,
 As if my talent had not lain
 Wrapped in a napkin, and all in vain.
 Yes, I might almost say to the Lord,
 Here is a copy of thy Word,
 Written out with much toil and pain ;
 Take it, O Lord, and let it be ²²⁰
 As something I have done for thee !

He looks from the window.

How sweet the air is ! How fair the
 scene !
 I wish I had as lovely a green
 To paint my landscapes and my leaves !
 How the swallows twitter under the
 eaves !
 There, now, there is one in her nest ;
 I can just catch a glimpse of her head
 and breast,
 And will sketch her thus, in her quiet
 nook,
 From the margin of my Gospel book.

He makes a sketch.

I can see no more. Through the valley
 yonder ²³⁰
 A shower is passing ; I hear the thun-
 der

Mutter its curses in the air,
 The devil's own and only prayer !
 The dusty road is brown with rain,
 And, speeding on with might and
 main,
 Hitherward rides a gallant train.
 They do not parley, they cannot wait.
 But hurry in at the convent gate.
 What a fair lady ! and beside her
 What a handsome, graceful, noble
 rider ! ²⁴⁰

Now she gives him her hand to
 alight ;
 They will beg a shelter for the night.
 I will go down to the corridor,
 And try to see that face once more ;
 It will do for the face of some beauti-
 ful Saint,
 Or for one of the Marias I shall paint.
Goes out.

THE CLOISTERS

*The ABBOT ERNESTUS pacing to and
 fro.*

ABBOT.

Slowly, slowly up the wall
 Steals the sunshine, steals the shade ;
 Evening damps begin to fall,
 Evening shadows are displayed. ²⁵⁰
 Round me, o'er me, everywhere,
 All the sky is grand with clouds,
 And athwart the evening air
 Wheel the swallows home in crowds.
 Shafts of sunshine from the west
 Paint the dusky windows red ;
 Darker shadows, deeper rest,
 Underneath and overhead.
 Darker, darker, and more wan,
 In my breast the shadows fall ; ²⁶⁰
 Upward steals the life of man,
 As the sunshine from the wall.
 From the wall into the sky,
 From the roof along the spire ;
 Ah, the souls of those that die
 Are but sunbeams lifted higher.

Enter PRINCE HENRY.

PRINCE HENRY.

Christ is arisen !

ABBOT.

Amen! He is arisen!
His peace be with you!

PRINCE HENRY.

Here it reigns forever!
The peace of God, that passeth under-
standing,
Reigns in these cloisters and these cor-
ridors.
Are you Ernestus, Abbot of the con-
vent?

ABBOT.

I am.

PRINCE HENRY.

And I Prince Henry of Hoheneck,
Who crave your hospitality to-night.

ABBOT.

You are thrice welcome to our humble
walls.
You do us honor; and we shall re-
quite it,
I fear, but poorly, entertaining you
With Paschal eggs, and our poor con-
vent wine,
The remnants of our Easter holidays.

PRINCE HENRY.

How fares it with the holy monks of
Hirschau?
Are all things well with them?

ABBOT.

All things are well.

PRINCE HENRY.

A noble convent! I have known it
long
By the report of travellers. I now see
Their commendations lag behind the
truth.
You lie here in the valley of the
Nagold
As in a nest: and the still river, glid-
ing
Along its bed, is like an admonition
How all things pass. Your lands are
rich and ample,
And your revenues large. God's bene-
diction
Rests on your convent.

ABBOT.

By our charities
We strive to merit it. Our Lord and
Master,

When He departed, left us in his will,
As our best legacy on earth, the poor!
These we have always with us; had
we not,
Our hearts would grow as hard as are
these stones.

PRINCE HENRY.

If I remember right, the Counts of
Calva
Founded your convent.

ABBOT.

Even as you say.

PRINCE HENRY.

And, if I err not, it is very old.

ABBOT.

Within these cloisters lie already
buried
Twelve holy Abbots. Underneath the
flags
On which we stand, the Abbot William
lies,
Of blessed memory.

PRINCE HENRY.

And whose tomb is that,
Which bears the brass escutcheon?

ABBOT.

A benefactor's.
Conrad, a Count of Calve, he who
stood
Godfather to our bells.

PRINCE HENRY.

Your monks are learned
And holy men, I trust.

ABBOT.

There are among them
Learned and holy men. Yet in this
age.
We need another Hildebrand, to shake
And purify us like a mighty wind.
The world is wicked, and sometimes I
wonder
God does not lose his patience with it
wholly,
And shatter it like glass! Even here,
at times,
Within these walls, where all should
be at peace,
I have my trials. Time has laid his
hand

Upon my heart, gently, not smiting
it,
But as a harper lays his open palm
Upon his harp, to deaden its vibra-
tions.
Ashes are on my head, and on my
lips
Sackcloth, and in my breast a heavi-
ness
And weariness of life, that makes me
ready
To say to the dead Abbots under
us, ³²⁰
"Make room for me!" Only I see the
dusk
Of evening twilight coming, and have
not
Completed half my task; and so at
times
The thought of my shortcomings in
this life
Falls like a shadow on the life to
come.

PRINCE HENRY.

We must all die, and not the old
alone;
The young have no exemption from
that doom.

ABBOT.

Ah, yes! the young may die, but the
old must!
That is the difference

PRINCE HENRY.

I have heard much laud
Of your transcribers. Your Scrip-
torium ³³⁰
Is famous among all; your manu-
scripts
Praised for their beauty and their ex-
cellence.

ABBOT.

That is indeed our boast. If you de-
sire it,
You shall behold these treasures. And
meanwhile
Shall the Refectorarius bestow
Your horses and attendants for the
night.

They go in. The Vesper-bell rings.

THE CHAPEL

*Vespers; after which the monks retire,
a chorister leading an old monk who
is blind.*

PRINCE HENRY.

They are all gone, save one who lin-
gers,
Absorbed in deep and silent prayer.
As if his heart could find no rest,
At times he beats his heaving breast ³⁴⁰
With clenched and convulsive fingers,
Then lifts them trembling in the air.
A chorister, with golden hair,
Guides hitherward his heavy pace.
Can it be so? Or does my sight
Deceive me in the uncertain light?
Ah no! I recognize that face,
Though Time has touched it in his
flight,
And changed the auburn hair to
white.
It is Count Hugo of the Rhine, ³⁵⁰
The deadliest foe of all our race,
And hateful unto me and mine!

THE BLIND MONK.

Who is it that doth stand so near
His whispered words I almost hear?

PRINCE HENRY.

I am Prince Henry of Hoheneck,
And you, Count Hugo of the Rhine!
I know you, and I see the scar,
The brand upon your forehead, shine
And redden like a baleful star!

THE BLIND MONK.

Count Hugo once, but now the
wreck ³⁶⁰
Of what I was. O Hoheneck!
The passionate will, the pride, the
wrath
That bore me headlong on my path,
Stumbled and staggered into fear,
And failed me in my mad career,
As a tired steed some evil-doer,
Alone upon a desolate moor,
Bewildered, lost, deserted, blind,
And hearing loud and close behind
The o'ertaking steps of his pursuer. ³⁷⁰
Then suddenly from the dark there
came
A voice that called me by my name,

"It is Count Hugo of the Rhine"

And said to me, "Kneel down and pray!"

And so my terror passed away,
Passed utterly away forever.
Contrition, penitence, remorse,
Came on me, with o'erwhelming force;

A hope, a longing, an endeavor,
By days of penance and nights of prayer,

To frustrate and defeat despair! 380

Calm, deep, and still is now my heart,
With tranquil waters overflowed;

A lake whose unseen fountains start,
Where once the hot volcano glowed.

And you, O Prince of Hohenek!
Have known me in that earlier time,
A man of violence and crime,
Whose passions brooked no curb nor check.

Behold me now, in gentler mood,
One of this holy brotherhood. 390

Give me your hand; here let me kneel;
Make your reproaches sharp as steel;
Spurn me, and smite me on each cheek;

No violence can harm the meek,
There is no wound Christ cannot heal!
Yes; lift your princely hand, and take
Revenge, if 't is revenge you seek;
Then pardon me, for Jesus' sake!

PRINCE HENRY.

Arise, Count Hugo! let there be
No further strife nor enmity 400
Between us twain; we both have
erred!

Too rash in act, too wroth in word,
From the beginning have we stood
In fierce, defiant attitude,
Each thoughtless of the other's right,
And each reliant on his might
But now our souls are more sub-
dued;

The hand of God, and not in vain,
Has touched us with the fire of
pain

Let us kneel down and side by side 410
Pray, till our souls are purified,
And pardon will not be denied!

They kneel.

THE REFECTORY

*Gaudiolum of Monks at midnight. LU-
CIFER disguised as a Friar.*

FRIAR PAUL *sings.*

Ave! color vini clari,
Dulcis potus, non amari,
Tua nos inebriari
Digneris potentia!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

Not so much noise, my worthy frères,
You 'll disturb the Abbot at his
prayers.

FRIAR PAUL *sings*.

O! quam placens in colore!
O! quam fragrans in odore! 420
O! quam sapidum in ore!
Dulce linguæ vinculum!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

I should think your tongue had broken
its chain!

FRIAR PAUL *sings*.

Felix venter quem intrabis!
Felix guttur quod rigabis!
Felix os quod tu lavabis!
Et beata labia!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

Peace! I say, peace!
Will you never cease!
You will rouse up the Abbot, I tell
you again! 430

FRIAR JOHN.

No danger! to-night he will let us
alone,
As I happen to know he has guests of
his own.

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

Who are they?

FRIAR JOHN.

A German Prince and his train,
Who arrived here just before the rain.
There is with him a damsel fair to
see,
As slender and graceful as a reed!
When she alighted from her steed,
It seemed like a blossom blown from
a tree.

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

None of your pale-faced girls for
me!
None of your damsels of high de-
gree! 440

FRIAR JOHN.

Come, old fellow, drink down to your
peg!
But do not drink any further, I beg!

FRIAR PAUL *sings*.

In the days of gold,
The days of old,
Crosier of wood
And bishop of gold!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

What an infernal racket and riot!
Can you not drink your wine in quiet?
Why fill the convent with such scan-
dals,
As if we were so many drunken Van-
dals? 450

FRIAR PAUL, *continues*.

Now we have changed
That law so good
To crosier of gold
And bishop of wood!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

Well, then, since you are in the mood
To give your noisy humors vent,
Sing and howl to your heart's content!

CHORUS OF MONKS.

Funde vinum, funde!
Tanquam sint fluminis undæ,
Nec quæras unde, 460
Sed fundas semper abunde!

FRIAR JOHN.

What is the name of yonder friar,
With an eye that glows like a coal of
fire,
And such a black mass of tangled
hair?

FRIAR PAUL.

He who is sitting there,
With a rollicking,
Devil may care,
Free and easy look and air,
As if he were used to such feasting
and frolicking?

FRIAR JOHN.

The same. 470

FRIAR PAUL.

He's a stranger. You had better ask
his name,
And where he is going and whence he
came.

FRIAR JOHN.

Hallo! Sir Friar!

FRIAR PAUL.

You must raise your voice a little
higher,
He does not seem to hear what you
say.
Now, try again! He is looking this
way.

FRIAR JOHN.

Hallo! Sir Friar,
We wish to inquire
Whence you came, and where you are
going,
And anything else that is worth the
knowing. 480
So be so good as to open your head.

LUCIFER.

I am a Frenchman born and bred,
Going on a pilgrimage to Rome.
My home
Is the convent of St. Gildas de Rhuy, s,
Of which, very like, you never have
heard.

MONKS.

Never a word!

LUCIFER.

You must know, then, it is in the
diocese
Called the Diocese of Vannes,
In the province of Brittany. 490
From the gray rocks of Morbihan
It overlooks the angry sea;
The very sea-shore where,
In his great despair,
Abbot Abelard walked to and fro,
Filling the night with woe,
And wailing aloud to the merciless
seas

The name of his sweet Heloise,
Whilst overhead
The convent windows gleamed as red
As the fiery eyes of the monks
within, 501
Who with jovial din
Gave themselves up to all kinds of sin!
Ha! that is a convent! that is an
abbey!
Over the doors,
None of your death-heads carved in
wood,
None of your Saints looking pious
and good.
None of your Patriarchs old and
shabby!

But the heads and tusks of boars,
And the cells 510
Hung all round with the fells
Of the fallow-deer.
And then what cheer!
What jolly, fat friars,
Sitting round the great, roaring fires,
Roaring louder than they,
With their strong wines,
And their concubines,
And never a bell,
With its swagger and swell, 520
Calling you up with a start of af-
fright
In the dead of night,
To send you grumbling down dark
stairs,
To mumble your prayers;
But the cheery crow
Of cocks in the yard below,
After daybreak, an hour or so,
And the barking of deep-mouthed
hounds,
These are the sounds
That, instead of bells, salute the ear.
And then all day 531
Up and away
Through the forest, hunting the
deer!
Ah, my friends! I'm afraid that
here
You are a little too pious, a little too
tame,
And the more is the shame.
'Tis the greatest folly
Not to be jolly;
That's what I think!
Come, drink, drink, 540
Drink, and die game!

MONKS.

And your Abbot What's-his-name?

LUCIFER.

Abelard!

MONKS.

Did he drink hard?

LUCIFER.

Oh, no! Not he!
He was a dry old fellow,
Without juice enough to get thor-
oughly mellow.
There he stood,
Lowering at us in sullen mood,

As if he had come into Brittany 550
Just to reform our brotherhood !

A roar of laughter.

But you see
It never would do !
For some of us knew a thing or
two,
In the Abbey of St. Gildas de Rhuys !
For instance, the great ado
With old Fulbert's niece,
The young and lovely Heloise.

FRIAR JOHN.

Stop there, if you please,
Till we drink to the fair Heloise. 560

ALL, drinking and shouting.
Heloise ! Heloise !

The Chapel-bell tolls.

LUCIFER, *starting.*

What is that bell for ? Are you such
asses
As to keep up the fashion of mid-
night masses ?

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

It is only a poor, unfortunate brother,
Who is gifted with most miraculous
powers
Of getting up at all sorts of hours,
And, by way of penance and Christian
meekness,
Of creeping silently out of his cell
To take a pull at that hideous bell ;
So that all the monks who are lying
awake 570
May murmur some kind of prayer for
his sake,
And adapted to his peculiar weak-
ness !

FRIAR JOHN.

From frailty and fall —

ALL.

Good Lord, deliver us all !

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

And before the bell for matins
sounds,
He takes his lantern, and goes the
rounds,
Flashing it into our sleepy eyes,
Merely to say it is time to arise.

But enough of that. Go on, if you
please,
With your story about St. Gildas de
Rhuys. 580

LUCIFER.

Well, it finally came to pass
That, half in fun and half in malice,
One Sunday at Mass
We put some poison into the chalice.
But, either by accident or design,
Peter Abelard kept away
From the chapel that day,
And a poor young friar, who in his
stead
Drank the sacramental wine,
Fell on the steps of the altar, dead ! 590
But look ! do you see at the window
there
That face, with a look of grief and
despair,
That ghastly face, as of one in pain ?

MONKS.

Who ? where ?

LUCIFER.

As I spoke, it vanished away again.

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

It is that nefarious
Siebald the Refectorarius.
That fellow is always playing the
scout,
Creeping and peeping and prowling
about ;
And then he regales 600
The Abbot with scandalous tales.

LUCIFER.

A spy in the convent ? One of the
brothers
Telling scandalous tales of the oth-
ers ?
Out upon him, the lazy loon !
I would put a stop to that pretty
soon,
In a way he should rue it.

MONKS.

How shall we do it ?

LUCIFER.

Do you, brother Paul,
Creep under the window, close to the
wall,
And open it suddenly when I call. 610

Then seize the villain by the hair,
And hold him there,
And punish him soundly, once for
all.

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

As St. Dunstan of old,
We are told,
Once caught the Devil by the nose!

LUCIFER.

Ha! ha! that story is very clever,
But has no foundation whatsoever.
Quick! for I see his face again
Glaring in at the window-pane; 620
Now! now! and do not spare your
blows.

FRIAR PAUL *opens the window sud-
denly, and seizes SIEBALD.*
They beat him.

FRIAR SIEBALD.

Help! help! are you going to slay
me?

FRIAR PAUL.

That will teach you again to betray me!

FRIAR SIEBALD.

Mercy! mercy!

FRIAR PAUL, *shouting and beating.*

Rumpas bellorum lorum
Vim confer amorum
Morum verorum rorum
Tu plena polorum!

LUCIFER.

Who stands in the doorway yonder,
Stretching out his trembling hand, 630
Just as Abelard used to stand,
The flash of his keen, black eyes
Forerunning the thunder?

THE MONKS, *in confusion.*

The Abbot! the Abbot!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

And what is the wonder!
He seems to have taken you by sur-
prise.

"What is that bell for? Are you such asses
As to keep up the fashion of midnight masses?"

FRIAR FRANCIS.

Hide the great flagon
From the eyes of the dragon!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

Pull the brown hood over your face!
This will bring us into disgrace! 639

ABBOT.

What means this revel and carouse?
Is this a tavern and drinking-house?
Are you Christian monks, or heathen
devils,
To pollute this convent with your
revels?

Were Peter Damian still upon earth,
To be shocked by such ungodly mirth,
He would write your names, with pen
of gall,

In his Book of Gomorrah, one and all!
Away, you drunkards! to your cells,
And pray till you hear the matin-
bells;

You, Brother Francis, and you, Bro-
ther Paul! 650

And as a penance mark each prayer
With the scourge upon your shoulders
bare;

Nothing atones for such a sin
But the blood that follows the disci-
pline.

And you, Brother Cuthbert, come
with me

Alone into the sacristy;

You, who should be a guide to your
brothers,

And are ten times worse than all the
others,

For you I've a draught that has long
been brewing,

You shall do a penance worth the do-
ing! 660

Away to your prayers, then, one and
all!

I wonder the very convent wall
Does not crumble and crush you in its
fall!

THE NEIGHBORING NUNNERY

*The ABBESS IRMINGARD sitting with
ELSIE in the moonlight.*

IRMINGARD.

The night is silent, the wind is still.
The moon is looking from yonder hill

Down upon convent, and grove, and
garden;

The clouds have passed away from
her face,

Leaving behind them no sorrowful
trace,

Only the tender and quiet grace
Of one whose heart has been healed
with pardon! 670

And such am I. My soul within
Was dark with passion and soiled with
sin.

But now its wounds are healed again;
Gone are the anguish, the terror, and
pain;

For across that desolate land of woe,
O'er whose burning sands I was forced
to go,

A wind from heaven began to blow;
And all my being trembled and shook,
As the leaves of the tree, or the grass
of the field,

And I was healed, as the sick are
healed, 680

When fanned by the leaves of the Holy
Book!

As thou sittest in the moonlight there,
Its glory flooding thy golden hair,
And the only darkness that which lies
In the haunted chambers of thine eyes,
I feel my soul drawn unto thee,

Strangely, and strongly, and more and
more,

As to one I have known and loved be-
fore;

For every soul is akin to me 689
That dwells in the land of mystery!

I am the Lady Irmingard,
Born of a noble race and name!

Many a wandering Suabian bard,
Whose life was dreary, and bleak, and
hard,

Has found through me the way to
fame.

Brief and bright were those days, and
the night

Which followed was full of a lurid
light.

Love, that of every woman's heart
Will have the whole, and not a part,

That is to her, in Nature's plan, 700
More than ambition is to man,

Her light, her life, her very breath,

"The moon is looking from yonder hill
Down upon convent, and grove, and garden."

With no alternative but death,
Found me a maiden soft and young,
Just from the convent's cloistered
school,
And seated on my lowly stool,
Attentive while the minstrel sung.

Gallant, graceful, gentle, tall,
Fairest, noblest, best of all,
Was Walter of the Vogelweid; 710
And, whatsoever may betide,
Still I think of him with pride!
His song was of the summer-time,
The very birds sang in his rhyme;
The sunshine, the delicious air,
The fragrance of the flowers, were
there;

And I grew restless as I heard,
Restless and buoyant as a bird,
Down soft, aerial currents sailing,
O'er blossomed orchards, and fields in
bloom, 720

And through the momentary gloom
Of shadows o'er the landscape trailing,
Yielding and borne I knew not where,
But feeling resistance unavailing.

And thus, unnoticed and apart,
And more by accident than choice,
I listened to that single voice
Until the chambers of my heart 728
Were filled with it by night and day.
One night, — it was a night in May, —
Within the garden, unawares,
Under the blossoms in the gloom,
I heard it utter my own name
With protestations and wild prayers;
And it rang through me, and became
Like the archangel's trump of doom,
Which the soul hears, and must obey;
And mine arose as from a tomb.
My former life now seemed to me
Such as hereafter death may be, 740
When in the great Eternity
We shall awake and find it day.

It was a dream, and would not stay;
A dream, that in a single night
Faded and vanished out of sight.
My father's anger followed fast
This passion, as a freshening blast
Seeks out and fans the fire, whose rage
It may increase, but not assuage.

And he exclaimed: "No wandering
bard 750
Shall win thy hand, O Irmingard!
For which Prince Henry of Hohenek
By messenger and letter sues."

Gently, but firmly, I replied:
"Henry of Hohenek I discard!
Never the hand of Irmingard
Shall lie in his as the hand of a
bride!"

This said I, Walter, for thy sake;
This said I, for I could not choose.
After a pause, my father spake 760
In that cold and deliberate tone
Which turns the hearer into stone,
And seems itself the act to be
That follows with such dread cer-
tainty:

"This or the cloister and the veil!"
No other words than these he said,
But they were like a funeral wail;
My life was ended, my heart was
dead.

That night from the castle-gate went
down,
With silent, slow, and stealthy pace,
Two shadows, mounted on shadowy
steeds,
Taking the narrow path that leads
Into the forest dense and brown.
In the leafy darkness of the place,
One could not distinguish form nor
face,
Only a bulk without a shape,
A darker shadow in the shade;
One scarce could say it moved or
stayed.

Thus it was we made our escape! 779
A foaming brook, with many a bound,
Followed us like a playful hound;
Then leaped before us, and in the hol-
low

Paused, and waited for us to follow,
And seemed impatient, and afraid
That our tardy flight should be be-
trayed

By the sound our horses' hoof-beats
made.

And when we reached the plain below,
We paused a moment and drew rein
To look back at the castle again; 789
And we saw the windows all aglow
With lights, that were passing to and
fro;

Our hearts with terror ceased to beat;
The brook crept silent to our feet;
We knew what most we feared to
know.

Then suddenly horns began to blow;
And we heard a shout, and a heavy
tramp,
And our horses snorted in the damp
Night-air of the meadows green and
wide,

And in a moment, side by side,
So close, they must have seemed but
one, 800

The shadows across the moonlight
run,
And another came, and swept behind,
Like the shadow of clouds before the
wind!

How I remember that breathless flight
Across the moors, in the summer
night!

How under our feet the long, white
road

Backward like a river flowed,
Sweeping with it fences and hedges,
Whilst farther away and overhead,
Paler than I, with fear and dread, 810
The moon fled with us as we fled
Along the forest's jagged edges!

All this I can remember well;
But of what afterwards befell
I nothing further can recall
Than a blind, desperate, headlong
fall;

The rest is a blank and darkness all.
When I awoke out of this swoon,
The sun was shining, not the moon,
Making a cross upon the wall 820
With the bars of my windows narrow
and tall;

And I prayed to it, as I had been
wont to pray,

From early childhood, day by day,
Each morning, as in bed I lay!

I was lying again in my own room!
And I thanked God, in my fever and
pain,

That those shadows on the midnight
plain

Were gone, and could not come again!
I struggled no longer with my dream!

This happened many years ago. 830
I left my father's home to come

Like Catherine to her martyrdom,
 For blindly I esteemed it so.
 And when I heard the convent door
 Behind me close, to ope no more,
 I felt it smite me like a blow.
 Through all my limbs a shudder ran,
 And on my bruised spirit fell
 The dampness of my narrow cell
 As night-air on a wounded man, 840
 Giving intolerable pain.

But now a better life began.
 I felt the agony decrease
 By slow degrees, then wholly cease,
 Ending in perfect rest and peace!
 It was not apathy, nor dulness,
 That weighed and pressed upon my
 brain,
 But the same passion I had given
 To earth before, now turned to heaven
 With all its overflowing fulness. 850

Alas! the world is full of peril!
 The path that runs through the fairest
 meads,
 On the sunniest side of the valley, leads
 Into a region bleak and sterile!
 Alike in the high-born and the lowly,
 The will is feeble, and passion strong.
 We cannot sever right from wrong;
 Some falsehood mingles with all
 truth;
 Nor is it strange the heart of youth
 Should waver and comprehend but
 slowly 860
 The things that are holy and unholy!
 But in this sacred, calm retreat,
 We are all well and safely shielded
 From winds that blow, and waves
 that beat,
 From the cold, and rain, and blighting
 heat,
 To which the strongest hearts have
 yielded.
 Here we stand as the Virgins Seven,
 For our celestial bridegroom yearn-
 ing;
 Our hearts are lamps forever burn-
 ing,
 With a steady and unwavering
 flame, 870
 Pointing upward, forever the same,
 Steadily upward toward the heaven!

The moon is hidden behind a cloud;
 A sudden darkness fills the room,

And thy deep eyes, amid the gloom,
 Shine like jewels in a shroud.
 On the leaves is a sound of falling
 rain;
 A bird, awakened in its nest,
 Gives a faint twitter of unrest,
 Then smooths its plumes and sleeps
 again. 880
 No other sounds than these I hear;
 The hour of midnight must be near.
 Thou art o'erspent with the day's
 fatigue
 Of riding many a dusty league;
 Sink, then, gently to thy slumber;
 Me so many cares encumber,
 So many ghosts, and forms of fright,
 Have started from their graves to
 night,
 They have driven sleep from mine eyes
 away:
 I will go down to the chapel and
 pray. 890

V

A COVERED BRIDGE AT LUCERNE

PRINCE HENRY.

God's blessing on the architects who
 build
 The bridges o'er swift rivers and
 abysses
 Before impassable to human feet,
 No less than on the builders of cathe-
 drals,
 Whose massive walls are bridges
 thrown across
 The dark and terrible abyss of Death.
 Well has the name of Pontifex been
 given
 Unto the Church's head, as the chief
 builder 8
 And architect of the invisible bridge
 That leads from earth to heaven.

ELSIE.

How dark it grows!
 What are these paintings on the walls
 around us?

PRINCE HENRY.

The Dance Macaber!

ELSIE.

What?

PRINCE HENRY.

The Dance of Death !
All that go to and fro must look upon
it,
Mindful of what they shall be, while
beneath,
Among the wooden piles, the turbu-
lent river
Rushes, impetuous as the river of life,
With dimpling eddies, ever green
and bright,
Save where the shadow of this bridge
falls on it.

ELSIE.

Oh yes ! I see it now !

PRINCE HENRY.

The grim musician
Leads all men through the mazes of
that dance, 20
To different sounds in different meas-
ures moving ;
Sometimes he plays a lute, sometimes
a drum,
To tempt or terrify.

ELSIE.

What is this picture ?

PRINCE HENRY.

It is a young man singing to a nun,
Who kneels at her devotions, but in
kneeling
Turns round to look at him ; and
Death, meanwhile,
Is putting out the candles on the
altar !

ELSIE.

Ah, what a pity 't is that she should
listen
Unto such songs, when in her orisons
She might have heard in heaven the
angels singing ! 30

PRINCE HENRY.

Here he has stolen a jester's cap and
bells,
And dances with the Queen.

ELSIE.

A foolish jest !

PRINCE HENRY.

And here the heart of the new-wedded
wife.

Coming from church with her beloved
lord,
He startles with the rattle of his
drum.

ELSIE.

Ah, that is sad ! And yet perhaps 't is
best
That she should die, with all the sun-
shine on her,
And all the benedictions of the morn-
ing,
Before this affluence of golden light
Shall fade into a cold and clouded
gray, 40
Then into darkness !

PRINCE HENRY.

Under it is written,
" Nothing but death shall separate
thee and me ! "

ELSIE.

And what is this, that follows close
upon it ?

PRINCE HENRY.

Death, playing on a dulcimer. Behind
him,
A poor old woman, with a rosary,
Follows the sound, and seems to wish
her feet
Were swifter to o'ertake him. Under-
neath,
The inscription reads, " Better is
Death than Life. "

ELSIE.

Better is Death than Life ! Ah yes ! to
thousands
Death plays upon a dulcimer, and
sings 50
That song of consolation, till the air
Rings with it, and they cannot choose
but follow
Whither he leads. And not the old
alone,
But the young also hear it, and are
still.

PRINCE HENRY.

Yes, in their sadder moments. 'T is
the sound
Of their own hearts they hear, half
full of tears,

Which are like crystal cups, half filled
 with water,
 Responding to the pressure of a finger
 With music sweet and low and melancholy.
 Let us go forward, and no longer
 stay⁶⁰
 In this great picture-gallery of Death!
 I hate it! ay, the very thought of it!

To come once more into the light of
 day,
 Out of that shadow of death! To
 hear again⁷⁰
 The hoof-beats of our horses on firm
 ground,
 And not upon those hollow planks,
 resounding
 With a sepulchral echo, like the
 clods

PRINCE HENRY.

For the reason
 That life, and all that speaks of life,
 is lovely,
 And death, and all that speaks of
 death, is hateful.

ELSIE.

The grave itself is but a covered
 bridge,
 Leading from light to light, through
 a brief darkness!

PRINCE HENRY, *emerging from the
 bridge.*

I breathe again more freely! Ah,
 how pleasant

On coffins in a churchyard! Yonder
 lies
 The Lake of the Four Forest-towns,
 apparelled
 In light, and lingering, like a village
 maiden,
 Hid in the bosom of her native moun-
 tains,
 Then pouring all her life into an-
 other's,
 Changing her name and being! Over-
 head,
 Shaking his cloudy tresses loose in
 air,⁸⁰
 Rises Pilatus, with his windy pines.

They pass on.

THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE

PRINCE HENRY *and* ELSIE *crossing*
with attendants.

GUIDE.

This bridge is called the Devil's
Bridge.

With a single arch, from ridge to
ridge,

It leaps across the terrible chasm
Yawning beneath us, black and deep
As if, in some convulsive spasm,
The summits of the hills had cracked,
And made a road for the cataract
That raves and rages down the steep!

LUCIFER, *under the bridge.*

Ha! ha!

90

GUIDE.

Never any bridge but this
Could stand across the wild abyss;
All the rest, of wood or stone,
By the Devil's hand were overthrown.
He toppled crags from the precipice,
And whatsoever was built by day
In the night was swept away;
None could stand but this alone.

LUCIFER, *under the bridge.*

Ha! ha!

GUIDE.

I showed you in the valley a boulder
Marked with the imprint of his shoul-
der;

101

As he was bearing it up this way,
A peasant, passing, cried, "Herr
Jé!"

And the Devil dropped it in his
fright,

And vanished suddenly out of sight!

LUCIFER, *under the bridge.*

Ha! ha!

GUIDE.

Abbot Giraldus of Einsiedel,
For pilgrims on their way to Rome,
Built this at last, with a single arch,
Under which, on its endless march, 110
Runs the river, white with foam,
Like a thread through the eye of a
needle.

And the Devil promised to let it
stand,

Under compact and condition
That the first living thing which
crossed

Should be surrendered into his hand,
And be beyond redemption lost.

LUCIFER, *under the bridge.*

Ha! ha! perdition!

GUIDE.

At length, the bridge being all com-
pleted,

The Abbot, standing at its head, 120
Threw across it a loaf of bread,
Which a hungry dog sprang after,
And the rocks reechoed with the peals
of laughter

To see the Devil thus defeated!

They pass on.

LUCIFER, *under the bridge.*

Ha! ha! defeated!

For journeys and for crimes like this
I let the bridge stand o'er the abyss!

THE ST. GOTHARD PASS

PRINCE HENRY.

This is the highest point. Two ways
the rivers

Leap down to different seas, and as
they roll

Grow deep and still, and their majes-
tic presence 130

Becomes a benefaction to the towns
They visit, wandering silently among
them,

Like patriarchs old among their shin-
ing tents.

ELSIE.

How bleak and bare it is! Nothing
but mosses

Grow on these rocks.

PRINCE HENRY.

Yet are they not forgotten;
Beneficent Nature sends the mists to
feed them.

ELSIE.

See yonder little cloud, that, borne
aloft

So tenderly by the wind, floats fast
away

Over the snowy peaks! It seems to
me
The body of St. Catherine, borne by
angels! 140

PRINCE HENRY.

Thou art St. Catherine, and invisible
angels
Bear thee across these chasms and
precipices,
Lest thou shouldst dash thy feet
against a stone!

ELSIE.

Would I were borne unto my grave,
as she was,
Upon angelic shoulders! Even now
I seem uplifted by them, light as air!
What sound is that?

PRINCE HENRY.

The tumbling avalanches!

ELSIE.

How awful, yet how beautiful!

PRINCE HENRY.

These are
The voices of the mountains! Thus
they ope
Their snowy lips, and speak unto each
other,¹⁵⁰
In the primeval language, lost to man.

ELSIE.

What land is this that spreads itself
beneath us?

PRINCE HENRY.

Italy! Italy!

ELSIE.

Land of the Madonna!
How beautiful it is! It seems a gar-
den
Of Paradise!

PRINCE HENRY.

Nay, of Gethsemane
To thee and me, of passion and of
prayer!
Yet once of Paradise. Long years
ago
I wandered as a youth among its
bowers,
And never from my heart has faded
quite
Its memory, that, like a summer sun-
set,¹⁶⁰
Encircles with a ring of purple light
All the horizon of my youth.

GUIDE.

O friends!
The days are short, the way before us
long;
We must not linger, if we think to
reach
The inn at Belinzona before vespers!
They pass on.

AT THE FOOT OF THE ALPS

A halt under the trees at noon.

PRINCE HENRY.

Here let us pause a moment in the
trembling
Shadow and sunshine of the roadside
trees,

And, our tired horses in a group as-
sembling,

Inhale long draughts of this delicious
breeze.

Our fleeter steeds have distanced our
attendants;¹⁷⁰

They lag behind us with a slower pace;
We will await them under the green
pendants

Of the great willows in this shady
place.

Ho, Barbarossa! how thy mottled
haunches

Sweat with this canter over hill and
glade!

Stand still, and let these overhanging
branches

Fan thy hot sides and comfort thee
with shade!

ELSIE.

What a delightful landscape spreads
before us,

Marked with a whitewashed cottage
here and there!

And, in luxuriant garlands drooping
o'er us,¹⁸⁰

Blossoms of grape-vines scent the
sunny air.

PRINCE HENRY.

Hark! what sweet sounds are those,
whose accents holy

Fill the warm noon with music sad
and sweet!

ELSIE.

It is a band of pilgrims, moving
slowly

On their long journey, with uncov-
ered feet.

PILGRIMS, *chanting the Hymn of St.
Hildebert.*

Me receptet Sion illa,
Sion David, urbs tranquilla,
Cujus faber auctor lucis,
Cujus portæ lignum crucis,
Cujus claves lingua Petri,¹⁹⁰
Cujus cives semper læti,
Cujus muri lapis vivus,
Cujus custos Rex festivus!

LUCIFER, *a Friar in the procession.*

Here am I, too, in the pious band,
In the garb of a barefooted Carmelite
dressed!

And, to make up for not understand-
ing the song,
Singing it fiercely, and wild, and
strong!
Were it not for my magic garters and
staff,
And the goblets of goodly wine I quaff,
And the mischief I make in the idle
throng,
I should not continue the business
long.

PILGRIMS, *chanting*.

In hâc urbe, lux solennis,
Ver æternum, pax perennis;
In hâc odor implens cælos, ²⁴⁰
In hâc semper festum melos!

PRINCE HENRY.

Do you observe that monk among the
train,
Who pours from his great throat the
roaring bass,
As a cathedral spout pours out the
rain,
And this way turns his rubicund,
round face?

ELSIE.

It is the same who, on the Strasburg
square,
Preached to the people in the open air.

PRINCE HENRY.

And he has crossed o'er mountain,
field, and fell,
On that good steed, that seems to bear
him well,
The hackney of the Friars of Orders
Gray, ²⁵⁰
His own stout legs! He, too, was in
the play,
Both as King Herod and Ben Israel.
Good morrow, Friar!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

Good morrow, noble Sir!

PRINCE HENRY.

I speak in German, for, unless I err,
You are a German.

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

I cannot gainsay you.
But by what instinct, or what secret
sign,

Meeting me here, do you straightway
divine
That northward of the Alps my coun-
try lies?

PRINCE HENRY.

Your accent, like St. Peter's, would
betray you,
Did not your yellow beard and your
blue eyes. ²⁶⁰
Moreover, we have seen your face be-
fore,
And heard you preach at the Cathe-
dral door
On Easter Sunday, in the Strasburg
square.
We were among the crowd that gath-
ered there,
And saw you play the Rabbi with
great skill,
As if, by leaning o'er so many years
To walk with little children, your own
will
Had caught a childish attitude from
theirs,
A kind of stooping in its form and gait,
And could no longer stand erect and
straight. ²⁷⁰
Whence come you now?

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

From the old monastery
Of Hirschau, in the forest; being sent
Upon a pilgrimage to Benevent,
To see the image of the Virgin Mary,
That moves its holy eyes, and some-
times speaks,
And lets the piteous tears run down
its cheeks,
To touch the hearts of the impenitent.

PRINCE HENRY.

Oh, had I faith, as in the days gone by,
That knew no doubt, and feared no
mystery! ²⁷⁹

LUCIFER, *at a distance*.

Ho, Cuthbert! Friar Cuthbert!

FRIAR CUTHBERT.

Farewell, Prince!
I cannot stay to argue and convince.

PRINCE HENRY.

This is indeed the blessed Mary's land,
Virgin and Mother of our dear Re-
deemer!

All hearts are touched and softened at
her name,
Alike the bandit, with the bloody
hand,
The priest, the prince, the scholar,
and the peasant,
The man of deeds, the visionary
dreamer,
Pay homage to her as one ever pre-
sent!
And even as children, who have much
offended
A too indulgent father, in great
shame, 290
Penitent, and yet not daring unat-
tended
To go into his presence, at the gate
Speak with their sister, and confiding
wait
Till she goes in before and intercedes;
So men, repenting of their evil deeds,
And yet not venturing rashly to draw
near
With their requests an angry father's
ear,
Offer to her their prayers and their
confession,
And she for them in heaven makes in-
tercession.
And if our Faith had given us nothing
more 300
Than this example of all womanhood,
So mild, so merciful, so strong, so
good,
So patient, peaceful, loyal, loving,
pure,
This were enough to prove it higher
and truer
Than all the creeds the world had
known before.

PILGRIMS, *chanting afar off*.

Urbs cœlestis, urbs beata,
Supra petram collocata,
Urbs in portu satis tuto
De longinquo te saluto,
Te saluto, te suspiro, 310
Te affecto, te requiro!

THE INN AT GENOA

A terrace overlooking the sea. Night.

PRINCE HENRY.

It is the sea, it is the sea,
In all its vague immensity,

Fading and darkening in the distance!
Silent, majestic, and slow,
The white ships haunt it to and fro,
With all their ghostly sails unfurled,
As phantoms from another world
Haunt the dim confines of existence!
But ah! how few can comprehend 320
Their signals, or to what good end
From land to land they come and go!
Upon a sea more vast and dark
The spirits of the dead embark,
All voyaging to unknown coasts.
We wave our farewells from the
shore,
And they depart, and come no more,
Or come as phantoms and as ghosts.

Above the darksome sea of death
Looms the great life that is to be, 330
A land of cloud and mystery,
A dim mirage, with shapes of men
Long dead, and passed beyond our
ken.

Awe-struck we gaze, and hold our
breath

Till the fair pageant vanisheth,
Leaving us in perplexity,
And doubtful whether it has been
A vision of the world unseen,
Or a bright image of our own
Against the sky in vapors thrown. 340

LUCIFER, *singing from the sea*.

Thou didst not make it, thou canst
not mend it,

But thou hast the power to end it!
The sea is silent, the sea is discreet,
Deep it lies at thy very feet;
There is no confessor like unto Death!
Thou canst not see him, but he is
near;

Thou needst not whisper above thy
breath,

And he will hear;
He will answer the questions,
The vague surmises and suggestions,
That fill thy soul with doubt and
fear! 351

PRINCE HENRY.

The fisherman, who lies afloat,
With shadowy sail, in yonder boat,
Is singing softly to the Night!
But do I comprehend aright
The meaning of the words he sung
So sweetly in his native tongue?

Ah yes! the sea is still and deep.
 All things within its bosom sleep!
 A single step, and all is o'er; 360
 A plunge, a bubble, and no more;
 And thou, dear Elsie, wilt be free
 From martyrdom and agony.

*ELSIE, coming from her chamber upon
 the terrace.*

The night is calm and cloudless,
 And still as still can be,
 And the stars come forth to listen
 To the music of the sea.
 They gather, and gather, and gather,
 Until they crowd the sky,
 And listen, in breathless silence, 370
 To the solemn litany.
 It begins in rocky caverns,
 As a voice that chants alone
 To the pedals of the organ
 In monotonous undertone;
 And anon from shelving beaches,
 And shallow sands beyond,
 In snow-white robes uprising
 The ghostly choirs respond.
 And sadly and unceasing 380
 The mournful voice sings on,
 And the snow-white choirs still an-
 swer
 Christe eleison!

PRINCE HENRY.

Angel of God! thy finer sense per-
 ceives
 Celestial and perpetual harmonies!
 Thy purer soul, that trembles and be-
 lieves,
 Hears the archangel's trumpet in the
 breeze,
 And where the forest rolls, or ocean
 heaves,
 Cecilia's organ sounding in the seas,
 And tongues of prophets speaking in
 the leaves. 390
 But I hear discord only and despair,
 And whispers as of demons in the air!

AT SEA

IL PADRONE.

'The wind upon our quarter lies,
 And on before the freshening gale,
 That fills the snow-white lateen sail,
 Swiftly our light felucca flies.
 Around, the billows burst and foam;
 They lift her o'er the sunken rock,

They beat her sides with many a
 shock,
 And then upon their flowing dome 400
 They poise her, like a weathercock!
 Between us and the western skies
 The hills of Corsica arise;
 Eastward, in yonder long blue line,
 The summits of the Apennine,
 And southward, and still far away,
 Salerno, on its sunny bay.
 You cannot see it, where it lies.

PRINCE HENRY.

Ah, would that never more mine eyes
 Might see its towers by night or
 day! 410

ELSIE.

Behind us, dark and awfully,
 There comes a cloud out of the sea,
 That bears the form of a hunted deer,
 With hide of brown, and hoofs of
 black,
 And antlers laid upon its back,
 And fleeing fast and wild with fear,
 As if the hounds were on its track!

PRINCE HENRY.

Lo! while we gaze, it breaks and
 falls
 In shapeless masses, like the walls
 Of a burnt city. Broad and red 420
 The fires of the descending sun
 Glare through the windows, and o'er-
 head,
 Athwart the vapors, dense and dun,
 Long shafts of silvery light arise,
 Like rafters that support the skies!

ELSIE.

See! from its summit the lurid levin
 Flashes downward without warning,
 As Lucifer, son of the morning,
 Fell from the battlements of heaven!

IL PADRONE.

I must entreat you, friends, below! 430
 The angry storm begins to blow,
 For the weather changes with the
 moon.
 All this morning, until noon,
 We had baffling winds, and sudden
 flaws
 Struck the sea with their cat's-paws.
 Only a little hour ago
 I was whistling to Saint Antonio

For a capful of wind to fill our sail,
And instead of a breeze he has sent a
gale.

Last night I saw Saint Elmo's stars 440
With their glimmering lanterns, all at
play

On the tops of the masts and the tips
of the spars,

And I knew we should have foul
weather to-day.

Cheerily, my heartiest! yo heave ho!
Brail up the mainsail, and let her go
As the winds will and Saint Antonio!

Do you see that Livornese felucca,
That vessel to the windward yonder,
Running with her gunwale under?
I was looking when the wind o'ertook
her. 450

She had all sail set, and the only won-
der

Is that at once the strength of the
blast

Did not carry away her mast.
She is a galley of the Gran Duca.
That, through the fear of the Alger-
ines,

Convoys those lazy brigantines,
Laden with wine and oil from Lucca.

Now all is ready, high and low;
Blow, blow, good Saint Antonio! 459

Ha! that is the first dash of the rain,
With a sprinkle of spray above the rails,
Just enough to moisten our sails,
And make them ready for the strain.
See how she leaps, as the blasts o'er-
take her,

And speeds away with a bone in her
mouth!

Now keep her head toward the south,
And there is no danger of bank or
breaker.

With the breeze behind us, on we go;
Not too much, good Saint Antonio!

VI

THE SCHOOL OF SALERNO

*A travelling Scholastic affixing his
Theses to the gate of the College.*

SCHOLASTIC.

There, that is my gauntlet, my ban-
ner, my shield.

Hung up as a challenge to all the
field!

One hundred and twenty-five propo-
sitions,
Which I will maintain with the sword
of the tongue
Against all disputants, old and young.
Let us see if doctors or dialecticians
Will dare to dispute my definitions,
Or attack any one of my learned theses.
Here stand I ; the end shall be as God
pleases.

I think I have proved, by profound
researches,¹⁰
The error of all those doctrines so
vicious
Of the old Areopagite Dionysius,
That are making such terrible work in
the churches,
By Michael the Stammerer sent from
the East,
And done into Latin by that Scottish
beast,
Johannes Duns Scotus, who dares to
maintain,
In the face of the truth, the error in-
fernal,
That the universe is and must be eter-
nal ;
At first laying down, as a fact funda-
mental,
That nothing with God can be acciden-
tal ;²⁰
Then asserting that God before the
creation
Could not have existed, because it is
plain
That, had He existed, He would have
created ;
Which is begging the question that
should be debated,
And moveth me less to anger than
laughter.
All nature, he holds, is a respiration
Of the Spirit of God, who, in breath-
ing, hereafter
Will inhale it into his bosom again,
So that nothing but God alone will
remain.
And therein he contradicteth him-
self ;³⁰
For he opens the whole discussion by
stating,
That God can only exist in creating.
That question I think I have laid on
the shelf !

*He goes out. Two Doctors come in dis-
puting, and followed by pupils.*

DOCTOR SERAFINO.

I, with the Doctor Seraphic, main-
tain,
That a word which is only conceived
in the brain
Is a type of eternal Generation ;
The spoken word is the Incarnation.

DOCTOR CHERUBINO.

What do I care for the Doctor Se-
raphic,
With all his wordy chaffer and traffic ?

DOCTOR SERAFINO.

You make but a paltry show of resis-
tance ;⁴⁰
Universals have no real existence !

DOCTOR CHERUBINO.

Your words are but idle and empty
chatter ;
Ideas are eternally joined to matter !

DOCTOR SERAFINO.

May the Lord have mercy on your
position,
You wretched, wrangling culler of
herbs !

DOCTOR CHERUBINO.

May he send your soul to eternal per-
dition,
For your Treatise on the Irregular
Verbs !

*They rush out fighting. Two Scholars
come in.*

FIRST SCHOLAR.

Monte Cassino, then, is your College.
What think you of ours here at
Salern ?

SECOND SCHOLAR.

To tell the truth, I arrived so lately, ⁵⁰
I hardly yet have had time to discern.
So much, at least, I am bound to
acknowledge :
The air seems healthy, the buildings
stately,
And on the whole I like it greatly.

FIRST SCHOLAR.

Yes, the air is sweet ; the Calabrian
hills
Send us down puffs of mountain air ;

And in summer-time the sea-breeze
fills
With its coolness cloister, and court,
and square.
Then at every season of the year
There are crowds of guests and trav-
ellers here;
Pilgrims, and mendicant friars, and
traders
From the Levant, with figs and wine,
And bands of wounded and sick Cru-
saders,
Coming back from Palestine.

SECOND SCHOLAR.

And what are the studies you pursue?
What is the course you here go
through?

FIRST SCHOLAR.

The first three years of the college
course
Are given to Logic alone, as the
source
Of all that is noble, and wise, and
true.

Oh yes!
For none but a clever dialectician
Can hope to become a great physi-
cian;
That has been settled long ago.
Logic makes an important part
Of the mystery of the healing art:
For without it how could you hope to
show
That nobody knows so much as you
know?
After this there are five years more so
Devoted wholly to medicine,
With lectures on surgical lore,
And dissections of the bodies of swine,
As likeliest the human form divine.

SECOND SCHOLAR.

What are the books now most in
vogue?

FIRST SCHOLAR.

Quite an extensive catalogue;
Mostly, however, books of our own;
As Gariopontus' Passionarius,
And the writings of Matthew Platea-
rius:

And a volume universally known 90
 As the Regimen of the School of
 Salern,
 For Robert of Normandy written in
 terse
 And very elegant Latin verse.
 Each of these writings has its turn.
 And when at length we have finished
 these,
 Then comes the struggle for degrees,
 With all the oldest and ablest critics;
 The public thesis and disputation,
 Question, and answer, and explana-
 tion
 Of a passage out of Hippocrates, 100
 Or Aristotle's Analytics.
 There the triumphant Magister stands!
 A book is solemnly placed in his
 hands,
 On which he swears to follow the rule
 And ancient forms of the good old
 School;
 To report if any confectionarius
 Mingles his drugs with matters various,
 And to visit his patients twice a day,
 And once in the night, if they live in
 town,
 And if they are poor, to take no
 pay. 110
 Having faithfully promised these,
 His head is crowned with a laurel
 crown;
 A kiss on his cheek, a ring on his
 hand,
 The Magister Artium et Physices
 Goes forth from the school like a lord
 of the land.
 And now, as we have the whole morn-
 ing before us,
 Let us go in, if you make no objec-
 tion,
 And listen awhile to a learned prelec-
 tion
 On Marcus Aurelius Cassiodorus.
They go in. Enter LUCIFER as a Doctor.

LUCIFER.

This is the great School of Salern! 120
 A land of wrangling and of quarrels,
 Of brains that seethe, and hearts that
 burn,
 Where every emulous scholar hears,
 In every breath that comes to his ears,
 The rustling of another's laurels!
 The air of the place is called salu-
 brious;

The neighborhood of Vesuvius lends
 it
 An odor volcanic, that rather mends it,
 And the buildings have an aspect lu-
 gubrious,
 That inspires a feeling of awe and
 terror 130
 Into the heart of the beholder,
 And befits such an ancient homestead
 of error,
 Where the old falsehoods moulder and
 smoulder,
 And yearly by many hundred hands
 Are carried away, in the zeal of youth,
 And sown like tares in the field of
 truth,
 To blossom and ripen in other lands.
 What have we here, affixed to the
 gate?
 The challenge of some scholastic
 wight,
 Who wishes to hold a public debate 140
 On sundry questions wrong or right!
 Ah, now this is my great delight!
 For I have often observed of late
 That such discussions end in a fight.
 Let us see what the learned wag main-
 tains
 With such a prodigal waste of brains.

Reads.

"Whether angels in moving from
 place to place
 Pass through the intermediate space.
 Whether God himself is the author of
 evil,
 Or whether that is the work of the
 Devil. 150
 When, where, and wherefore Lucifer
 fell,
 And whether he now is chained in
 hell."
 I think I can answer that question
 well!
 So long as the boastful human mind
 Consents in such mills as this to grind,
 I sit very firmly upon my throne!
 Of a truth it almost makes me laugh,
 To see men leaving the golden grain
 To gather in piles the pitiful chaff
 That old Peter Lombard thrashed with
 his brain, 160
 To have it caught up and tossed again
 On the horns of the Dumb Ox of Co-
 logne!

But my guests approach! there is in
the air

A fragrance, like that of the Beautiful
Garden

Of Paradise, in the days that were!
An odor of innocence and of prayer,
And of love, and faith that never fails,
Such as the fresh young heart exhales
Before it begins to wither and harden!
I cannot breathe such an atmosphere!
My soul is filled with a nameless fear,
That, after all my trouble and pain,
After all my restless endeavor, ¹⁷³
The youngest, fairest soul of the twain,
The most ethereal, most divine,
Will escape from my hands for ever
and ever.

But the other is already mine!
Let him live to corrupt his race,
Breathing among them, with every
breath,
Weakness, selfishness, and the base ¹⁸⁰
And pusillanimous fear of death,
I know his nature, and I know
That of all who in my ministry
Wander the great earth to and fro,
And on my errands come and go,
The safest and subtlest are such as he.

*Enter PRINCE HENRY and ELSIE, with
attendants.*

PRINCE HENRY.

Can you direct us to Friar Angelo?

LUCIFER.

He stands before you.

PRINCE HENRY.

Then you know our purpose.
I am Prince Henry of Hoheneck, and
this
The maiden that I spake of in my let-
ters. ¹⁹⁰

LUCIFER.

It is a very grave and solemn business!
We must not be precipitate. Does
she
Without compulsion, of her own free
will,
Consent to this?

PRINCE HENRY.

Against all opposition,
Against all prayers, entreaties, protes-
tations.
She will not be persuaded.

LUCIFER.

That is strange!
Have you thought well of it?

ELSIE.

I come not here
To argue, but to die. Your business
is not
To question, but to kill me. I am
ready. ¹⁹⁹
I am impatient to be gone from here
Ere any thoughts of earth disturb
again
The spirit of tranquillity within me.

PRINCE HENRY.

Would I had not come here! Would I
were dead,
And thou wert in thy cottage in the
forest,
And hadst not known me! Why have
I done this?
Let me go back and die.

ELSIE.

It cannot be;
Not if these cold, flat stones on which
we tread
Were coulters heated white, and yon-
der gateway
Flamed like a furnace with a seven-
fold heat. ²⁰⁹
I must fulfil my purpose.

PRINCE HENRY.

I forbid it!
Not one step further. For I only meant
To put thus far thy courage to the
proof.
It is enough. I, too, have strength to
die,
For thou hast taught me!

ELSIE.

O my Prince! remember
Your promises. Let me fulfil my
errand.
You do not look on life and death as I
do.
There are two angels, that attend un-
seen
Each one of us, and in great books
record
Our good and evil deeds. He who
writes down
The good ones, after every action
closes ²²⁰

His volume, and ascends with it to God.
The other keeps his dreadful day-book
open

Till sunset, that we may repent;
which doing,

The record of the action fades away,
And leaves a line of white across the
page.

Now if my act be good, as I believe,
It cannot be recalled. It is already
Sealed up in heaven, as a good deed
accomplished.

The rest is yours. Why wait you? I
am ready.

To her attendants.

Weep not, my friends! rather rejoice
with me.

I shall not feel the pain, but shall be
gone,

And you will have another friend in
heaven.

Then start not at the creaking of the
door

Through which I pass. I see what
lies beyond it.

To PRINCE HENRY.

And you, O Prince! bear back my
benison

Unto my father's house, and all within
it.

This morning in the church I prayed
for them,

After confession, after absolution,
When my whole soul was white, I
prayed for them.

God will take care of them, they need
me not.

And in your life let my remembrance
linger,

As something not to trouble and dis-
turb it,

But to complete it, adding life to life.
And if at times beside the evening fire

You see my face among the other faces,
Let it not be regarded as a ghost

That haunts your house, but as a
guest that loves you.

Nay, even as one of your own family,
Without whose presence there were
something wanting.

I have no more to say. Let us go in.

PRINCE HENRY.

Friar Angelo! I charge you on your
life,

Believe not what she says, for she is
mad,
And comes here not to die, but to be
healed.

ELSIE.

Alas! Prince Henry!

LUCIFER.

Come with me; this way.

*ELSIE goes in with LUCIFER, who
thrusts PRINCE HENRY back and
closes the door.*

PRINCE HENRY.

Gone! and the light of all my life
gone with her!

A sudden darkness falls upon the
world!

Oh, what a vile and abject thing am I
That purchase length of days at such
a cost!

Not by her death alone, but by the
death

Of all that's good and true and noble
in me!

All manhood, excellence, and self-re-
spect,

All love, and faith, and hope, and
heart are dead!

All my divine nobility of nature

By this one act is forfeited forever.

I am a Prince in nothing but in name!

To the attendants.

Why did you let this horrible deed be
done?

Why did you not lay hold on her, and
keep her

From self-destruction? Angelo! mur-
derer!

*Struggles at the door, but cannot open
it.*

ELSIE, within.

Farewell, dear Prince! farewell!

PRINCE HENRY.

Unbar the door!

LUCIFER.

It is too late!

PRINCE HENRY.

It shall not be too late!

They burst the door open and rush in.

THE FARM-HOUSE IN THE ODEN-
WALD

URSULA *spinning. A summer after-
noon. A table spread.*

URSULA.

I have marked it well, — it must be
true, — 271

Death never takes one alone, but two!
Whenever he enters in at a door,
Under roof of gold or roof of thatch,
He always leaves it upon the latch,
And comes again ere the year is o'er.
Never one of a household only!
Perhaps it is a mercy of God,
Lest the dead there under the sod,
In the land of strangers, should be
lonely! 280

Ah me! I think I am lonelier here!
It is hard to go, — but harder to stay!
Were it not for the children, I should
pray

That Death would take me within the
year!

And Gottlieb! — he is at work all day,
In the sunny field, or the forest murk,
But I know that his thoughts are far
away,

I know that his heart is not in his
work!

And when he comes home to me at
night 289

He is not cheery, but sits and sighs,
And I see the great tears in his
eyes,

And try to be cheerful for his sake.
Only the children's hearts are light.
Mine is weary, and ready to break.
God help us! I hope we have done
right;

We thought we were acting for the
best!

Looking through the open door.

Who is it coming under the trees?
A man, in the Prince's livery dressed!
He looks about him with doubtful
face,

As if uncertain of the place. 300
He stops at the beehives; — now he
sees

The garden gate; — he is going past!
Can he be afraid of the bees?

No; he is coming in at last!
He fills my heart with strange alarm!

Enter a Forester.

FORESTER.

Is this the tenant Gottlieb's farm?

URSULA.

This is his farm, and I his wife.
Pray sit. What may your business
be!

FORESTER.

News from the Prince!

URSULA.

Of death or life?

FORESTER.

You put your questions eagerly! 310

URSULA.

Answer me, then! How is the
Prince?

FORESTER.

I left him only, two hours since
Homeward returning down the river,
As strong and well as if God, the
Giver,
Had given him back his youth again.

URSULA, *despairing*.

Then Elsie, my poor child, is dead!

FORESTER.

That, my good woman, I have not
said.
Don't cross the bridge till you come to
it,
Is a proverb old, and of excellent wit.

URSULA

Keep me no longer in this pain! 320

FORESTER.

It is true your daughter is no
more; —
That is, the peasant she was before.

URSULA.

Alas! I am simple and lowly bred,
I am poor, distracted, and forlorn.
And it is not well that you of the
court
Should mock me thus, and make a
sport
Of a joyless mother whose child is
dead,
For you, too, were of mother born!

FORESTER.

Your daughter lives, and the Prince is
well!You will learn ere long how it all be-
fell. 330

Her heart for a moment never failed;
But when they reached Salerno's gate,
The Prince's nobler self prevailed,
And saved her for a noble fate.

And he was healed, in his despair,
By the touch of St. Matthew's sacred
bones;

Though I think the long ride in the
open air,

That pilgrimage over stocks and
stones,

In the miracle must come in for a
share!

URSULA.

Virgin! who lovest the poor and
lowly, 340

If the loud cry of a mother's heart
Can ever ascend to where thou art,
Into thy blessed hands and holy
Receive my prayer of praise and
thanksgiving!

Let the hands that bore our Saviour
bear it

Into the awful presence of God;
For thy feet with holiness are shod,
And if thou bearest it He will hear
it.

Our child who was dead again is liv-
ing!

FORESTER.

I did not tell you she was dead; 350
If you thought so 't was no fault of
mine;

At this very moment, while I speak,
They are sailing homeward down the
Rhine,

In a splendid barge, with golden prow,
And decked with banners white and
red

As the colors on your daughter's
cheek.

They call her the Lady Alicia now;
For the Prince in Salerno made a
vow

That Elsie only would he wed.

URSULA.

Jesu Maria! what a change! 360
All seems to me so weird and strange!

"Is this the tenant Gottlieb's farm?"

FORESTER.

I saw her standing on the deck,
Beneath an awning cool and shady;
Her cap of velvet could not hold
The tresses of her hair of gold,
That flowed and floated like the
stream,
And fell in masses down her neck.
As fair and lovely did she seem
As in a story or a dream
Some beautiful and foreign lady. 370
And the Prince looked so grand and
proud,
And waved his hand thus to the
crowd
That gazed and shouted from the
shore,
All down the river, long and loud.

URSULA.

We shall behold our child once more;
She is not dead! She is not dead!
God, listening, must have overheard
The prayers, that, without sound or
word,

Our hearts in secrecy have said! 379
Oh, bring me to her; for mine eyes
Are hungry to behold her face;
My very soul within me cries;
My very hands seem to caress her,
To see her, gaze at her, and bless her,
Dear Elsie, child of God and grace!

Goes out toward the garden.

FORESTER.

There goes the good woman out of
her head,
And Gottlieb's supper is waiting here;
A very capacious flagon of beer,
And a very portentous loaf of bread.
One would say his grief did not much
oppress him. 390
Here's to the health of the Prince,
God bless him!

He drinks.

Ha! it buzzes and stings like a hornet!
And what a scene there, through the
door!

The forest behind and the garden before,
 And midway an old man of three-score,
 With a wife and children that caress him.
 Let me try still further to cheer and adorn it
 With a merry, echoing blast of my cornet!
Goes out blowing his horn.

THE CASTLE OF VAUTSBERG ON THE RHINE

PRINCE HENRY and ELSIE standing
on the terrace at evening.

The sound of bells heard from a distance.

PRINCE HENRY.
 We are alone. The wedding guests
 Ride down the hill, with plumes and cloaks,
 And the descending dark invests
 The Niederwald, and all the nests
 Among its hoar and haunted oaks.

ELSIE.
 What bells are those, that ring so slow,
 So mellow, musical, and low?

PRINCE HENRY.
 They are the bells of Geisenheim,
 That with their melancholy chime
 Ring out the curfew of the sun.

ELSIE.
 Listen, beloved.

PRINCE HENRY.
 They are done!
 Dear Elsie! many years ago
 Those same soft bells at eventide
 Rang in the ears of Charlemagne,
 As, seated by Fastrada's side
 At Ingelheim, in all his pride
 He heard their sound with secret pain.

ELSIE.
 Their voices only speak to me
 Of peace and deep tranquillity,
 And endless confidence in thee!

PRINCE HENRY.
 Thou knowest the story of her ring,
 How, when the court went back to Aix,
 Fastrada died; and how the king
 Sat watching by her night and day,
 Till into one of the blue lakes,
 Which water that delicious land,
 They cast the ring, drawn from her hand:
 And the great monarch sat serene
 And sad beside the fated shore,
 Nor left the land forevermore.

ELSIE.
 That was true love.

PRINCE HENRY.
 For him the queen
 Ne'er did what thou hast done for me.

ELSIE.
 Wilt thou as fond and faithful be?
 Wilt thou so love me after death?

PRINCE HENRY.
 In life's delight, in death's dismay,
 In storm and sunshine, night and day,
 In health, in sickness, in decay,
 Here and hereafter, I am thine!
 Thou hast Fastrada's ring. Beneath
 The calm, blue waters of thine eyes,
 Deep in thy steadfast soul it lies,
 And, undisturbed by this world's breath,
 With magic light its jewels shine!
 This golden ring, which thou hast worn
 Upon thy finger since the morn,
 Is but a symbol and a semblance,
 An outward fashion, a remembrance,
 Of what thou wearest within unseen
 O my Fastrada, O my queen!
 Behold! the hill-tops all aglow
 With purple and with amethyst;
 While the whole valley deep below
 Is filled, and seems to overflow,
 With a fast-rising tide of mist.
 The evening air grows damp and chill;
 Let us go in.

ELSIE.
 Ah, not so soon.
 See yonder fire! It is the moon
 Slow rising o'er the eastern hill.
 It glimmers on the forest tips,
 And through the dewy foliage drips

In little rivulets of light,
And makes the heart in love with
night.

460

PRINCE HENRY.

Oft on this terrace, when the day
Was closing, have I stood and gazed,
And seen the landscape fade away,

And leap, with naked, snow-white
feet,
From the cool hills into the heat
Of the broad, arid plain."

God sent his messenger of faith,
And whispered in the maiden's heart,
"Rise up, and look from where thou
art,

And scatter with unselfish hands 10
Thy freshness on the barren sands
And solitudes of Death."

O beauty of holiness,
Of self-forgetfulness, of lowliness!
O power of meekness,
Whose very gentleness and weakness
Are like the yielding, but irresistible
air!

Upon the pages
Of the sealed volume that I bear,
The deed divine 20
Is written in characters of gold,
That never shall grow old,
But through all ages
Burn and shine,
With soft effulgence!
O God! it is thy indulgence
That fills the world with the bliss
Of a good deed like this!

THE ANGEL OF EVIL DEEDS, *with open
book.*

Not yet, not yet
Is the red sun wholly set, 30
But evermore recedes,
While open still I bear
The Book of Evil Deeds,
To let the breathings of the upper
air

Visit its pages and erase
The records from its face!
Fainter and fainter as I gaze
In the broad blaze
The glimmering landscape shines,
And below me the black river 40
Is hidden by wreaths of vapor!
Fainter and fainter the black lines
Begin to quiver
Along the whitening surface of the
paper;

Shade after shade
The terrible words grow faint and
fade,
And in their place
Runs a white space!

Down goes the sun!
But the soul of one, 50
Who by repentance
Hath escaped the dreadful sentence,

Shines bright below me as I look.
It is the end!

With closed Book
To God do I ascend.
Lo! over the mountain steeps
A dark, gigantic shadow sweeps
Beneath my feet;
A blackness inwardly brightening 50
With sullen heat,
As a storm-cloud lurid with lightning.
And a cry of lamentation,
Repeated and again repeated,
Deep and loud
As the reverberation
Of cloud answering unto cloud,
Swells and rolls away in the distance,
As if the sheeted
Lightning retreated, 70
Baffled and thwarted by the wind's
resistance.

It is Lucifer,
The son of mystery;
And since God suffers him to be,
He, too, is God's minister,
And labors for some good
By us not understood!

SECOND INTERLUDE

MARTIN LUTHER

A CHAMBER IN THE WARTBURG.
MORNING. MARTIN LUTHER
WRITING

MARTIN LUTHER.

Our God, a Tower of Strength is He,
A goodly wall and weapon;
From all our need He helps us free,
That now to us doth happen.

The old evil foe
Doth in earnest grow,
In grim armor dight,
Much guile and great might;
On earth there is none like him.

Oh yes; a tower of strength indeed, 10
A present help in all our need,
A sword and buckler is our God.
Innocent men have walked unshod
O'er burning ploughshares, and have
trod
Unharm'd on serpents in their path,
And laughed to scorn the Devil's
wrath!

"Safe, yes, safe am I here at last"

Safe in this Wartburg tower I stand
Where God hath led me by the hand,
And look down, with a heart at ease,
Over the pleasant neighborhoods, 20
Over the vast Thuringian Woods,
With flash of river, and gloom of
trees,
With castles crowning the dizzy
heights,
And farms and pastoral delights,
And the morning pouring everywhere
Its golden glory on the air.
Safe, yes, safe am I here at last,
Safe from the overwhelming blast
Of the mouths of Hell, that followed
me fast,
And the howling demons of despair 30
That hunted me like a beast to his
lair.

Of our own might we nothing can;
We soon are unprotected;
There fighteth for us the right Man,
Whom God himself elected.
Who is He; ye exclaim?
Christus is his name,
Lord of Sabaoth,
Very God in troth;
The field He holds forever. 40

Nothing can vex the Devil more
Than the name of Him whom we
adore.
Therefore doth it delight me best
To stand in the choir among the rest,
With the great organ trumpeting
Through its metallic tubes, and sing:
Et verbum caro factum est!
These words the Devil cannot endure,
For he knoweth their meaning well!
Him they trouble and repel, 50
Us they comfort and allure,
And happy it were, if our delight
Were as great as his affright!

Yea, music is the Prophets' art;
Among the gifts that God hath sent,
One of the most magnificent!
It calms the agitated heart;
Temptations, evil thoughts, and all
The passions that disturb the soul,
Are quelled by its divine control, 60
As the Evil Spirit fled from Saul,
And his distemper was allayed,
When David took his harp and played.

This world may full of Devils be,
All ready to devour us;

Yet not so sore afraid are we,
 They shall not overpower us.
 This World's Prince, howe'er
 Fierce he may appear,
 He can harm us not,
 He is doomed, God wot!
 One little word can slay him!

70

Incredible it seems to some
 And to myself a mystery.
 That such weak flesh and blood as we,
 Armed with no other shield or sword,
 Or other weapon than the Word,
 Should combat and should overcome
 A spirit powerful as he!
 He summons forth the Pope of Rome
 With all his diabolic crew,
 His shorn and shaven retinue
 Of priests and children of the dark;
 Kill! kill! they cry, the Heresiarch,
 Who rouseth up all Christendom
 Against us; and at one fell blow
 Seeks the whole Church to overthrow!
 Not yet; my hour is not yet come.

79

Yesterday in an idle mood,
 Hunting with others in the wood,
 I did not pass the hours in vain,
 For in the very heart of all
 The joyous tumult raised around,
 Shouting of men, and baying of
 hound,

90

And the bugle's blithe and cheery call,
 And echoes answering back again,
 From crags of the distant mountain
 chain, —

In the very heart of this, I found
 A mystery of grief and pain.
 It was an image of the power
 Of Satan, hunting the world about,
 With his nets and traps and well-
 trained dogs,
 His bishops and priests and theo-
 logues,

100

And all the rest of the rabble rout,
 Seeking whom he may devour!
 Enough I have had of hunting hares,
 Enough of these hours of idle mirth,
 Enough of nets and traps and gins!
 The only hunting of any worth
 Is where I can pierce with javelins
 The cunning foxes and wolves and
 bears,

110

The whole iniquitous troop of beasts,
 The Roman Pope and the Roman
 priests

That sorely infest and afflict the earth!

Ye nuns, ye singing birds of the air!
 The fowler hath caught you in his
 snare,

And keeps you safe in his gilded cage,
 Singing the song that never tires,
 To lure down others from their nests;
 How ye flutter and beat your breasts,
 Warm and soft with young desires
 Against the cruel, pitiless wires,
 Reclaiming your lost heritage!
 Behold! a hand unbars the door,
 Ye shall be captives held no more.

122

The Word they shall perforce let stand,
 And little thanks they merit!
 For He is with us in the land,
 With gifts of his own Spirit!

Though they take our life,
 Goods, honors, child and wife,
 Let these pass away,
 Little gain have they;

130

The Kingdom still remaineth!

Yea, it remaineth forevermore,
 However Satan may rage and roar,
 Though often he whispers in my ears:
 What if thy doctrines false should be,
 And wrings from me a bitter sweat.
 Then I put him to flight with jeers,
 Saying: Saint Satan! pray for me;
 If thou thinkest I am not saved yet!

140

And my mortal foes that lie in wait
 In every avenue and gate!
 As to that odious monk John Tetzl,
 Hawking about his hollow wares
 Like a huckster at village fairs,
 And those mischievous fellows, Wet-
 zel,

Campanus, Carlstadt, Martin Cella-
 rius,
 And all the busy, multifarious
 Heretics, and disciples of Arius,
 Half-learned, dunce-bold, dry and
 hard,

150

They are not worthy of my regard,
 Poor and humble as I am.

But ah! Erasmus of Rotterdam,
 He is the vilest miscreant
 That ever walked this world below!
 A Momus, making his mock and mow,
 At Papist and at Protestant,
 Sneering at St. John and St. Paul,
 At God and Man, at one and all;
 And yet as hollow and false and drear,
 As a cracked pitcher to the ear,

160

And ever growing worse and worse !
Whenever I pray, I pray for a curse
On Erasmus, the Insincere !

Philip Melancthon ! thou alone
Faithful among the faithless known,
Thee I hail, and only thee !
Behold the record of us three ! 170
Res et verba Philippus,
Res sine verbis Lutherus ;
Erasmus verba sine re !

My Philip, prayest thou for me ?
Lifted above all earthly care,
From these high regions of the air,
Among the birds that day and night
Upon the branches of tall trees
Sing their lauds and litanies,
Praising God with all their might, 180
My Philip, unto thee I write.

My Philip ! thou who knowest best
All that is passing in this breast ;
The spiritual agonies,
The inward deaths, the inward hell,
And the divine new births as well,
That surely follow after these,
As after winter follows spring ;
My Philip, in the night-time sing 189
This song of the Lord I send to thee ;
And I will sing it for thy sake,
Until our answering voices make
A glorious antiphony,
And choral chant of victory !

PART THREE

THE NEW ENGLAND TRAGEDIES

JOHN ENDICOTT

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

JOHN ENDICOTT . . .	Governor.
JOHN ENDICOTT . . .	His son.
RICHARD BELLINGHAM . . .	Deputy Governor.
JOHN NORTON . . .	Minister of the Gospel.
EDWARD BUTTER . . .	Treasurer.
WALTER MERRY . . .	Tithing-man.
NICHOLAS UPSALL . . .	An old citizen.
SAMUEL COLE . . .	Landlord of the Three Mariners
SIMON KEMPTHORN } RALPH GOLDSMITH }	Sea-Captains.
WENLOCK CHRISTISON } EDITH, his daughter }	Quakers.
EDWARD WHARTON	

Assistants, Halberdiers, Marshal, etc.
The Scene is in Boston in the year 1665.

PROLOGUE

TO-NIGHT we strive to read, as we may
best,
This city, like an ancient palimpsest ;
And bring to light, upon the blotted
page,
The mournful record of an earlier age,
That, pale and half effaced, lies hid-
den away
Beneath the fresher writing of to-day.

Rise, then, O buried city that hast been ;
Rise up, rebuilt in the painted
scene,
And let our curious eyes behold once
more
The pointed gable and the pent-house
door, 10
The Meeting-house with leaden-lat-
ticed panes,
The narrow thoroughfares, the
crooked lanes !

Rise, too, ye shapes and shadows of
the Past,
Rise from your long-forgotten graves
at last ;
Let us behold your faces, let us hear
The words ye uttered in those days of
fear !
Revisit your familiar haunts again, —
The scenes of triumph, and the scenes
of pain,
And leave the footprints of your bleed-
ing feet
Once more upon the pavement of the
street ! 20

Nor let the Historian blame the Poet
here,
If he perchance misdate the day or
year,
And group events together, by his art,
That in the Chronicles lie far apart ;
For as the double stars, though sun-
dered far,
Seem to the naked eye a single star,
So facts of history, at a distance seen,
Into one common point of light con-
vene.

“Why touch upon such themes ?”
perhaps some friend
May ask, incredulous ; “and to what
good end ?” 30

Why drag again into the light of day
The errors of an age long passed
away?"

I answer: "For the lesson that they
teach:

The tolerance of opinion and of speech.
Hope, Faith, and Charity remain, —
these three;
And greatest of them all is Charity."

Let us remember, if these words be true,
That unto all men Charity is due;
Give what we ask; and pity, while
we blame,

Lest we become copartners in the
shame,

Lest we condemn, and yet ourselves
partake,

And persecute the dead for conscience'
sake.

Therefore it is the author seeks and
strives

To represent the dead as in their lives,
And lets at times his characters unfold
Their thoughts in their own language,
strong and bold;

He only asks of you to do the like;
To hear him first, and, if you will,
then strike.

ACT I

SCENE I. — *Sunday afternoon. The interior of the Meeting-house. On the pulpit, an hour-glass; below, a box for contributions. JOHN NORTON in the pulpit. GOVERNOR ENDICOTT in a canopied seat, attended by four halberdiers. The congregation singing.*

The Lord descended from above,
And bowed the heavens high;
And underneath his feet He cast
The darkness of the sky.

On Cherubim and Seraphim
Right royally He rode,
And on the wings of mighty winds
Came flying all abroad.

NORTON (*rising and turning the hour-glass on the pulpit*).

I heard a great voice from the temple
saying

Unto the Seven Angels, Go your
ways;

Pour out the vials of the wrath of
God

Upon the earth. And the First Angel
went

And poured his vial on the earth; and
straight

There fell a noisome and a grievous
sore

On them which had the birth-mark of
the Beast,

And them which worshipped, and
adored his image.

On us hath fallen this grievous pesti-
lence.

There is a sense of terror in the air;

And apparitions of things horrible

Are seen by many. From the sky
above us

The stars fall; and beneath us the
earth quakes!

The sound of drums at midnight from
afar,

The sound of horsemen riding to and
fro,

As if the gates of the invisible world
Were opened, and the dead came forth
to warn us, —

All these are omens of some dire dis-
aster

Impending over us, and soon to fall.

Moreover, in the language of the Pro-
phet,

Death is again come up into our win-
dows,

To cut off little children from with-
out,

And young men from the streets. And
in the midst

Of all these supernatural threats and
warnings

Doth Heresy uplift its horrid head;

A vision of Sin more awful and ap-
palling

Than any phantasm, ghost, or appari-
tion,

As arguing and portending some en-
largement

Of the mysterious Power of Dark-
ness!

EDITH, barefooted, and clad in sack-
cloth, with her hair hanging loose
upon her shoulders, walks slowly up
the aisle, followed by WHARTON and
other Quakers. The congregation
starts up in confusion.

EDITH (*to NORTON, raising her hand*).
Peace!

EDITH.
Anathema maranatha! The Lord
cometh!

EDITH.
Yea, verily He cometh, and shall
judge
The shepherds of Israel who do feed
themselves,
And leave their flocks to eat what⁴⁰
they have trodden
Beneath their feet.

NORTON.
Be silent, babbling woman!
St. Paul commands all women to keep
silence
Within the churches.

EDITH.
Yet the women prayed
And prophesied at Corinth in his day;
And, among those on whom the fiery
tongues
Of Pentecost descended, some were
women!

NORTON.
The Elders of the Churches, by our
law,
Alone have power to open the doors
of speech
And silence in the Assembly. I com-
mand you!⁵⁰

EDITH.
The law of God is greater than your
laws!
Ye build your church with blood,
your town with crime;
The heads thereof give judgment for
reward;
The priests thereof teach only for their
hire;
Your laws condemn the innocent to
death;
And against this I bear my testi-
mony!

NORTON.
What testimony?

EDITH.
That of the Holy Spirit,
Which, as your Calvin says, surpasseth
reason.

NORTON.
The laborer is worthy of his hire.

EDITH.
Yet our great Master did not teach for
hire,
And the Apostles without purse or⁶⁰
scrip

"Peace!"
Went forth to do his work. Behold
this box
Beneath thy pulpit. Is it for the
poor?
Thou canst not answer. It is for the
Priest;
And against this I bear my testimony.

NORTON.
Away with all these Heretics and
Quakers!

Quakers, forsooth! Because a quaking fell

On Daniel, at beholding of the Vision,
Must ye needs shake and quake? Because Isaiah

Went stripped and barefoot, must ye wail and howl? ⁷⁰

Must ye go stripped and naked? must ye make

A wailing like the dragons, and a mourning

As of the owls? Ye verify the adage
That Satan is God's ape! Away with them!

Tumult. The Quakers are driven out with violence, EDITH following slowly. The congregation retires in confusion.

Thus freely do the Reprobates commit
Such measure of iniquity as fits them
For the intended measure of God's wrath,

And even in violating God's commands

Are they fulfilling the divine decree!
The will of man is but an instrument ⁸⁰

Disposed and predetermined to its action

According unto the decree of God,
Being as much subordinate thereto
As is the axe unto the hewer's hand!

He descends from the pulpit, and joins GOVERNOR ENDICOTT, who comes forward to meet him.

The omens and the wonders of the time,

Famine, and fire, and shipwreck, and disease,

The blast of corn, the death of our young men,

Our sufferings in all precious, pleasant things,

Are manifestations of the wrath divine,

Signs of God's controversy with New England. ⁹⁰

These emissaries of the Evil One,
These servants and ambassadors of Satan,

Are but commissioned executioners
Of God's vindictive and deserved displeasure.

We must receive them as the Roman Bishop

Once received Attila, saying, I rejoice

You have come safe, whom I esteem to be

The scourge of God, sent to chastise his people.

This very heresy, perchance, may serve

The purposes of God to some good end. ¹⁰⁰

With you I leave it; but do not neglect

The holy tactics of the civil sword.

ENDICOTT.

And what more can be done?

NORTON.

The hand that cut
The Red Cross from the colors of the king

Can cut the red heart from this heresy.
Fear not. All blasphemies immediate

And heresies turbulent must be suppressed

By civil power.

ENDICOTT.

But in what way suppressed?

NORTON.

The Book of Deuteronomy declares
That if thy son, thy daughter, or thy wife, ¹¹⁰

Ay, or the friend which is as thine own soul,

Entice thee secretly, and say to thee,
Let us serve other gods, then shall thine eye

Not pity him, but thou shalt surely kill him,

And thine own hand shall be the first upon him

To slay him.

ENDICOTT.

Four already have been slain;
And others banished upon pain of death.

But they come back again to meet their doom,

Bringing the linen for their winding-sheets.

We must not go too far. In truth, I shrink ¹²⁰

His vision was prophetic; thus I
 came,
 A terror to the impenitent, and Death
 On the pale horse of the Apocalypse
 To all the accursèd race of Heretics!
 [Exeunt.]

SCENE II. — *A street. On one side, NICHOLAS UPSALL'S house; on the other, WALTER MERRY'S, with a flock of pigeons on the roof. UPSALL seated in the porch of his house.*

UPSALL.
 O day of rest! How beautiful, how
 fair,
 How welcome to the weary and the
 old!
 Day of the Lord! and truce to earthly
 cares!
 Day of the Lord, as all our days should
 be!
 Ah, why will man by his austerities
 Shut out the blessèd sunshine and the
 light,
 And make of thee a dungeon of de-
 spair!

WALTER MERRY (*entering and looking round him*).

All silent as a graveyard! No one
 stirring;
 No footfall in the street, no sound of
 voices!
 By righteous punishment and perse-
 verance,
 And perseverance in that punishment,
 At last I have brought this contuma-
 cious town
 To strict observance of the Sabbath
 day.
 Those wanton gospellers, the pigeons
 yonder,
 Are now the only Sabbath-breakers
 left.
 I cannot put them down. As if to
 taunt me,
 They gather every Sabbath afternoon
 In noisy congregation on my roof,
 Billing and cooing. Whir! take that,
 ye Quakers.

Throws a stone at the pigeons. Sees

UPSALL.
 Ah! Master Nicholas!

UPSALL.
 Good afternoon,
 Dear neighbor Walter.

MERRY.
 Master Nicholas,
 You have to-day withdrawn yourself
 from meeting.

UPSALL.
 Yea, I have chosen rather to worship
 God
 Sitting in silence here at my own
 door.

MERRY.
 Worship the Devil! You this day
 have broken
 Three of our strictest laws. First, by
 abstaining
 From public worship. Secondly, by
 walking
 Profanely on the Sabbath.

UPSALL.
 Not one step.
 I have been sitting still here, seeing
 the pigeons
 Feed in the street and fly about the
 roofs.

MERRY.
 You have been in the street with
 other intent
 Than going to and from the Meeting-
 house.
 And, thirdly, you are harboring
 Quakers here.
 I am amazed!

UPSALL.
 Men sometimes, it is said,
 Entertain angels unawares.

MERRY.
 Nice angels!
 Angels in broad-brimmed hats and
 russet cloaks,
 The color of the Devil's nutting-bag!
 They came
 Into the Meeting-house this afternoon
 More in the shape of devils than of
 angels.
 The women screamed and fainted;
 and the boys
 Made such an uproar in the gallery
 I could not keep them quiet.

UPSALL.

Neighbor Walter,
Your persecution is of no avail.

MERRY.

'T is prosecution, as the Governor
says,
Not persecution.

UPSALL.

Well, your prosecution;
Your hangings do no good.

MERRY.

The reason is,
We do not hang enough. But, mark
my words,
We'll scour them; yea, I warrant ye,
we'll scour them!
And now go in and entertain your
angels,
And don't be seen here in the street
again
Till after sundown! — There they are
again!

*Exit UPSALL. MERRY throws another
stone at the pigeons, and then goes
into his house.*

SCENE III. — A room in UPSALL'S
house. Night. EDITH, WHARTON,
and other Quakers seated at a table.
UPSALL seated near them. Several
books on the table.

WHARTON.

William and Marmaduke, our mar-
tyred brothers,
Sleep in untimely graves, if aught un-
timely
Can find place in the providence of
God,
Where nothing comes too early or too
late.
I saw their noble death. They to the
scaffold
Walked hand in hand. Two hundred
armed men
And many horsemen guarded them,
for fear
Of rescue by the crowd, whose hearts
were stirred.

EDITH.

O holy martyrs!

WHARTON.

When they tried to speak,
Their voices by the roll of drums were
drowned.
When they were dead they still looked
fresh and fair,
The terror of death was not upon their
faces.
Our sister Mary, likewise, the meek
woman,
Has passed through martyrdom to her
reward;
Exclaiming, as they led her to her
death,
"These many days I've been in Para-
dise."
And, when she died, Priest Wilson
threw the hangman
His handkerchief, to cover the pale
face
He dared not look upon.

EDITH.

As persecuted,
Yet not forsaken; as unknown, yet
known;
As dying, and behold we are alive;
As sorrowful, and yet rejoicing al-
ways;
As having nothing, yet possessing
all!

WHARTON.

And Leddra, too, is dead. But from
his prison,
The day before his death, he sent these
words
Unto the little flock of Christ: "What-
ever
May come upon the followers of the
Light, —
Distress, affliction, famine, nakedness,
Or perils in the city or the sea,
Or persecution, or even death it-
self, —
I am persuaded that God's armor of
Light,
As it is loved and lived in, will pre-
serve you.
Yea, death itself; through which you
will find entrance
Into the pleasant pastures of the fold
Where you shall feed forever as the
herds
That roam at large in the low valleys
of Achor.

And as the flowing of the ocean fills
 Each creek and branch thereof, and
 then retires,
 Leaving behind a sweet and whole-
 some savor;
 So doth the virtue and the life of
 God⁴⁰
 Flow evermore into the hearts of
 those
 Whom he hath made partakers of his
 nature;
 And, when it but withdraws itself a
 little,
 Leaves a sweet savor after it, that
 many
 Can say they are made clean by every
 word
 That He hath spoken to them in their
 silence."

EDITH (*rising and breaking into a kind
 of chant*).

Truly we do but grope here in the
 dark,
 Near the partition-wall of Life and
 Death,
 At every moment dreading or desiring
 To lay our hands upon the unseen
 door!⁵⁰
 Let us, then, labor for an inward still-
 ness, —
 An inward stillness and an inward
 healing;
 That perfect silence where the lips
 and heart
 Are still, and we no longer entertain
 Our own imperfect thoughts and vain
 opinions,
 But God alone speaks in us, and we
 wait
 In singleness of heart, that we may
 know
 His will, and in the silence of our
 spirits,
 That we may do His will, and do that
 only!⁵⁹

*A long pause, interrupted by the sound
 of a drum approaching; then shouts
 in the street, and a loud knocking at
 the door.*

MARSHAL.

Within there! Open the door!

MERRY.

Will no one answer?

MARSHAL.

In the King's name! Within there!

MERRY.

Open the door!

UPSALL (*from the window*).

It is not barred. Come in. Nothing
 prevents you.

The poor man's door is ever on the
 latch.

He needs no bolt nor bar to shut out
 thieves;

He fears no enemies, and has no
 friends

Importunate enough to need a key.

*Enter JOHN ENDICOTT, the MARSHAL,
 MERRY, and a crowd. Seeing the
 Quakers silent and unmoved, they
 pause, awe-struck. ENDICOTT oppo-
 site EDITH.*

MARSHAL.

In the King's name do I arrest you
 all!

Away with them to prison. Master
 Upsall,

You are again discovered harboring
 here

These ranters and disturbers of the
 peace.⁷⁰

You know the law.

UPSALL.

I know it, and am ready
 To suffer yet again its penalties.

EDITH (*to ENDICOTT*).

Why dost thou persecute me, Saul of
 Tarsus?

ACT II

SCENE I. — JOHN ENDICOTT'S room.
Early morning.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

"Why dost thou persecute me, Saul of
 Tarsus?"

All night these words were ringing in
 mine ears!

A sorrowful sweet face; a look that
 pierced me

With meek reproach; a voice of res-
 ignation

That had a life of suffering in its tone;
And that was all! And yet I could
not sleep,

Or, when I slept, I dreamed that awful dream!

I stood beneath the elm-tree on the
Common

On which the Quakers have been
hanged, and heard

A voice, not hers, that cried amid the
darkness,

"This is Aeldama, the field of blood!
I will have mercy, and not sacrifice!"

Opens the window, and looks out.

The sun is up already; and my heart
Sickens and sinks within me when I
~~think~~

How many tragedies will be enacted
Before his setting. As the earth rolls
round,

It seems to me a huge Ixion's wheel,
Upon whose whirling spokes we are
bound fast,

And must go with it! Ah, how bright
the sun

Strikes on the sea and on the masts
of vessels,

That are uplifted in the morning
air,

Like crosses of some peaceable cru-
sade!

It makes me long to sail for lands un-
known,

No matter whither! Under me, in
shadow,

Gloomy and narrow lies the little
town,

Still sleeping, but to wake and toil
awhile,

Then sleep again. How dismal looks
the prison,

How grim and sombre in the sunless
street, —

The prison where she sleeps, or wakes
and waits

For what I dare not think of, — death,
perhaps!

A word that has been said may be un-
said:

It is but air. But when a deed is
done

It cannot be undone, nor can our
thoughts

Reach out to all the mischiefs that
may follow.

"T is time for morning prayers. I will
go down.

My father, though severe, is kind and
just;

And when his heart is tender with de-
votion, —

When from his lips have fallen the
words, "Forgive us

As we forgive," — then will I inter-
cede

For these poor people, and perhaps
may save them.

⁴⁰
[Exit.

SCENE II. — *Dock Square. On one side,
the tavern of the Three Mariners.
In the background, a quaint build-
ing with gables; and, beyond it,
wharves and shipping.* CAPTAIN
KEMPTHORN and others seated at a
table before the door. SAMUEL COLE
standing near them.

KEMPTHORN.

Come, drink about! Remember Par-
son Melham,

And bless the man who first invented
flip!

They drink.

COLE.

Pray, Master Kempthorn, where were
you last night?

KEMPTHORN.

On board the Swallow, Simon Kemp-
thorn, master,
Up for Barbadoes, and the Windward
Islands.

COLE.

The town was in a tumult.

KEMPTHORN.

And for what?

COLE.

Your Quakers were arrested.

KEMPTHORN.

How my Quakers?

COLE.

Those you brought in your vessel from
Barbadoes.

They made an uproar in the Meeting-
house

Yesterday, and they're now in prison
for it.

I owe you little thanks for bringing
them

To the Three Mariners.

KEMPTHORN.

They have not harmed you.

I tell you, Goodman Cole, that Quaker
girl

Is precious as a sea-bream's eye. I tell
you

It was a lucky day when first she set
Her little foot upon the Swallow's
deck,

Bringing good luck, fair winds, and
pleasant weather.

COLE.

I am a law-abiding citizen:

I have a seat in the new Meeting-
house,

A cow-right on the Common; and, be-
sides,

Am corporal in the Great Artillery.

I rid me of the vagabonds at once.

KEMPTHORN.

Why should you not have Quakers at
your tavern

If you have fiddlers?

COLE.

Never! never! never!

If you want fiddling you must go else-
where,

To the Green Dragon and the Admiral
Vernon,

And other such disreputable places.

But the Three Mariners is an orderly
house,

Most orderly, quiet, and respectable.

Lord Leigh said he could be as quiet
here

As at the Governor's. And have I
not

King Charles's Twelve Good Rules,
all framed and glazed,

Hanging in my best parlor?

KEMPTHORN.

Here's a health

To good King Charles. Will you not
drink the King?

Then drink confusion to old Parson
Palmer.

COLE.
And who is Parson Palmer? I don't
know him.

KEMPTHORN.
He had his cellar underneath his pulpit,
And so preached o'er his liquor, just
as you do.

A drum within.

COLE.
Here comes the Marshal.

MERRY (*within*).
Make room for the Marshal.

mainsail,
And all his streamers fluttering in the
wind.
What holds he in his hand?

COLE.
A proclamation.

*Enter the MARSHAL, with a proclama-
tion; and MERRY, with a halberd.
They are preceded by a drummer,
and followed by the hangman, with an
armful of books, and a crowd of peo-
ple, among whom are UPRAIL and
JOHN ENDICOTT. A pile is made
of the books.*

MERRY.

Silence the drum! Good citizens, attend
To the new laws enacted by the Court.

MARSHAL (*reads*).

"Whereas a cursèd sect of Heretics
Has lately risen, commonly called
Quakers,
Who take upon themselves to be commissioned
Immediately of God, and furthermore
Infallibly assisted by the Spirit ⁵⁰
To write and utter blasphemous opinions,
Despising Government and the order
of God
In Church and Commonwealth, and
speaking evil
Of Dignities, reproaching and reviling
The Magistrates and Ministers, and
seeking
To turn the people from their faith,
and thus
Gain proselytes to their pernicious
ways;—
This Court, considering the premises,
And to prevent like mischief as is
wrought
By their means in our land, doth hereby
by order, ⁶⁰
That whatsoever master or commander
Of any ship, bark, pink, or catch shall
bring
To any roadstead, harbor, creek, or
cove
Within this Jurisdiction any Quakers,
Or other blasphemous Heretics, shall
pay
Unto the Treasurer of the Commonwealth
One hundred pounds, and for default
thereof
Be put in prison, and continue there
Till the said sum be satisfied and paid."

COLE.

Now, Simon Kempthorn, what say
you to that? ⁷⁰

KEMPTHORN.

I pray you, Cole, lend me a hundred
pounds!

MARSHAL (*reads*).

"If any one within this Jurisdiction

Shall henceforth entertain, or shall
conceal
Quakers, or other blasphemous Heretics,
Knowing them so to be, every such
person
Shall forfeit to the country forty shillings
For each hour's entertainment or concealment,
And shall be sent to prison, as aforesaid,
Until the forfeiture be wholly paid."
Murmurs in the crowd.

KEMPTHORN.

Now, Goodman Cole, I think your
turn has come! ⁸⁰

COLE.

Knowing them so to be!

KEMPTHORN.

At forty shillings
The hour, your fine will be some forty
pounds!

COLE.

Knowing them so to be! That is the
law.

MARSHAL (*reads*).

"And it is further ordered and enacted,
If any Quaker or Quaker shall presume
To come henceforth into this Jurisdiction,
Every male Quaker for the first offence
Shall have one ear cut off; and shall
be kept
At labor in the Workhouse, till such
time ⁸⁹
As he be sent away at his own charge.
And for the repetition of the offence
Shall have his other ear cut off, and
then
Be branded in the palm of his right
hand.
And every woman Quaker shall be
whipt
Severely in three towns; and every
Quaker,
Or he or she, that shall for a third
time

Herein again offend, shall have their
tongues
Bored through with a hot iron, and
shall be
Sentenced to Banishment on pain of
Death."

*Loud murmurs. The voice of CHRIST-
ISON in the crowd.*

O patience of the Lord! How long,
how long,
Ere thou avenge the blood of Thine¹⁰⁰
Elect?

MERRY.

Silence, there, silence! Do not break
the peace!

MARSHAL (*reads*).

"Every inhabitant of this Jurisdiction
Who shall defend the horrible opin-
ions

Of Quakers, by denying due respect
To equals and superiors, and with-
drawing

From Church Assemblies, and thereby
approving

The abusive and destructive practices
Of this accursed sect, in opposition

To all the orthodox received opinions
Of godly men, shall be forthwith com-
mitted

Unto close prison for one month; and
then

Refusing to retract and to reform
The opinions as aforesaid, he shall be
Sentenced to Banishment on pain of
Death.

By the Court. Edward Rawson,
Secretary."

Now, hangman, do your duty. Burn
those books.

*Loud murmurs in the crowd. The pile
of books is lighted.*

UPSALL.

I testify against these cruel laws!
Forerunners are they of some judg-
ment on us;

And, in the love and tenderness I
bear

Unto this town and people, I beseech
you,

O Magistrates, take heed, lest ye be
found

As fighters against God!

JOHN ENDICOTT (*taking UPSALL'S
hand*).

Upsall, I thank you
For speaking words such as some
younger man,
I, or another, should have said before
you.

Such laws as these are cruel and op-
pressive;

A blot on this fair town, and a dis-
grace

To any Christian people.

MERRY (*aside, listening behind them*).

Here's sedition!
I never thought that any good would
come

Of this young popinjay, with his long
hair

And his great boots, fit only for the¹³⁰
Russians

Or barbarous Indians, as his father
says!

THE VOICE.

Woe to the bloody town! And right-
fully

Men call it the Lost Town! The
blood of Abel

Cries from the ground, and at the
final judgment

The Lord will say, "Cain, Cain!
where is thy brother?"

MERRY.

Silence there in the crowd!

UPSALL (*aside*).

'Tis Christison!

THE VOICE.

O foolish people, ye that think to
burn

And to consume the truth of God, I
tell you

That every flame is a loud tongue of
fire

To publish it abroad to all the world¹⁴⁰
Louder than tongues of men!

KEMPTHORN (*springing to his feet*).

Well said, my hearty!
There's a brave fellow! There's a
man of pluck!

A man who's not afraid to say his
say,

Though a whole town's against him.
Rain, rain, rain,
Bones of St. Botolph, and put out this
fire!

*The drum beats. Exeunt all but
MERRY, KEMPTHORN, and COLE.*

MERRY.

And now that matter's ended, Good-
man Cole,
Fetch me a mug of ale, your strongest
ale.

KEMPTHORN (*sitting down*).
And me another mug of flip; and put
Two gills of brandy in it.

[*Exit COLE.*

MERRY.

Not a drop more, I say. No; no more.
You've had
enough. 151

KEMPTHORN.

And who are you, sir?

MERRY.

I'm a Tithing-man,
And Merry is my name.

KEMPTHORN.

A merry name!
I like it; and I'll drink your merry
health
Till all is blue.

MERRY.

And then you will be clapped
Into the stocks, with the red letter D
Hung round about your neck for
drunkenness.
You're a free-drinker, — yes, and a
free-thinker!

KEMPTHORN.

And you are Andrew Merry, or Merry
Andrew.

MERRY.

My name is Walter Merry, and not
Andrew. 160

KEMPTHORN.

Andrew or Walter, you're a merry
fellow;
I'll swear to that.

MERRY.

No swearing, let me tell you.
The other day one Shorthose had his
tongue
Put into a cleft stick for profane
swearing.

COLE *brings the ale.*

KEMPTHORN.

Well, where's my flip? As sure as
my name's Kempthorn —

MERRY.

Is your name Kempthorn?

KEMPTHORN.

That's the name I go by.

MERRY.

What, Captain Simon Kempthorn of
the Swallow?

KEMPTHORN.

No other.

MERRY (*touching him on the shoulder*).

Then you're wanted. I arrest you
In the King's name.

KEMPTHORN.

And where's your warrant?

MERRY (*unfolding a paper, and read-
ing*).

Here.

Listen to me. "Hereby you are re-
quired, 170
In the King's name, to apprehend the
body
Of Simon Kempthorn, mariner, and
him
Safely to bring before me, there to
answer
All such objections as are laid to him,
Touching the Quakers. Signed,
John Endicott."

KEMPTHORN.

Has it the Governor's seal?

MERRY.

Ay, here it is.

KEMPTHORN.

Death's head and cross-bones. That's
a pirate's flag!

MERRY.

Beware how you revile the Magistrates;
You may be whipped for that.

KEMP THORN.

Then mum's the word.

Exeunt MERRY and KEMP THORN.

SCENE III. — *A room in the Governor's house. Enter GOVERNOR ENDICOTT and MERRY.*

ENDICOTT.

My son, you say?

MERRY.

Your Worship's eldest son.

ENDICOTT.

Speaking against the laws?

MERRY.

Ay, worshipful sir.

ENDICOTT.

And in the public market-place?

MERRY.

I saw him
With my own eyes, heard him with
my own ears.

ENDICOTT.

Impossible!

MERRY.

He stood there in the crowd
With Nicholas Upsall, when the laws
were read
To-day against the Quakers, and I
heard him
Denounce and vilipend them as un-
just,
And cruel, wicked, and abominable.

ENDICOTT.

Ungrateful son! O God! thou layest
upon me
A burden heavier than I can bear!
Surely the power of Satan must be
great
Upon the earth, if even the elect
Are thus deceived and fall away from
grace!

MERRY.

Worshipful sir! I meant no harm —

ENDICOTT.

'T is well.

You've done your duty, though
you've done it roughly,
And every word you've uttered since
you came
Has stabbed me to the heart!

COLE.

There's mischief brewing! Sure,
there's mischief brewing! 180
I feel like Master Josselyn when he
found
The hornet's nest, and thought it some
strange fruit,
Until the seeds came out, and then he
dropped it. *[Exit.]*

"Worshipful sir! I meant no harm"

MERRY.

I do beseech
Your Worship's pardon!

ENDICOTT.

He whom I have nurtured
And brought up in the reverence of
the Lord!
The child of all my hopes and my af-
fections!
He upon whom I leaned as a sure
staff
For my old age! It is God's chastise-
ment
For leaning upon any arm but His!

MERRY.

Your Worship! —

ENDICOTT.

And this comes from holding parley
With the delusions and deceits of
Satan.
At once, forever, must they be crushed
out,
Or all the land will reek with heresy!
Pray, have you any children?

MERRY.

No, not any.

ENDICOTT.

Thank God for that. He has delivered
you
From a great care. Enough; my pri-
vate griefs
Too long have kept me from the public
service.

*Exit MERRY. ENDICOTT seats himself
at the table and arranges his papers.*

The hour has come; and I am eager
now
To sit in judgment on these Heretics.

A knock.

Come in. Who is it? (*Not looking up.*)

JOHN ENDICOTT.

It is I.

ENDICOTT (*restraining himself*).

Sit down!

JOHN ENDICOTT (*sitting down*).

I come to intercede for these poor peo-
ple
Who are in prison, and await their
trial.

ENDICOTT.

It is of them I wish to speak with you.
I have been angry with you, but 't is
passed.

For when I hear your footsteps come
or go,

See in your features your dead mo-
ther's face,

And in your voice detect some tone of
hers,

All anger vanishes, and I remember
The days that are no more, and come
no more,

When as a child you sat upon my knee,
And prattled of your playthings, and
the games

You played among the pear trees in
the orchard!

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Oh, let the memory of my noble mother
Plead with you to be mild and merci-
ful!

For mercy more becomes a Magistrate
Than the vindictive wrath which men
call justice!

ENDICOTT.

The sin of heresy is a deadly sin.

'T is like the falling of the snow,
whose crystals

The traveller plays with, thoughtless
of his danger,

Until he sees the air so full of light
That it is dark; and blindly stagger-
ing onward,

Lost and bewildered, he sits down to
rest;

There falls a pleasant drowsiness upon
him,

And what he thinks is sleep, alas! is
death.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

And yet who is there that has never
doubted?

And doubting and believing, has not
said,

"Lord, I believe; help thou my un-
belief"?

ENDICOTT.

In the same way we trifle with our
doubts,

Whose shining shapes are like the stars
descending;

Until at last, bewildered and dismayed,
Blinded by that which seemed to give
us light,
We sink to sleep, and find that it is
death,

Rising.

Death to the soul through all eternity!
Alas that I should see you growing
up
To man's estate, and in the admoni-
tion
And nurture of the Law, to find you⁷⁰
now
Pleading for Heretics!

JOHN ENDICOTT (*rising*).

In the sight of God,
Perhaps all men are Heretics. Who
dares
To say that he alone has found the
truth?
We cannot always feel and think and
act
As those who go before us. Had you
done so,
You would not now be here.

ENDICOTT.

Have you forgotten
The doom of Heretics, and the fate of
those
Who aid and comfort them? Have
you forgotten
That in the market-place this very
day⁸⁰
You trampled on the laws? What
right have you,
An inexperienced and untravelled
youth,
To sit in judgment here upon the
acts
Of older men and wiser than yourself,
Thus stirring up sedition in the streets,
And making me a byword and a jest?

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Words of an inexperienced youth like
me
Were powerless if the acts of older
men
Went not before them. 'T is these
laws themselves
Stir up sedition, not my judgment of
them.⁹⁰

ENDICOTT.

Take heed, lest I be called, as Brutus
was,
To be the judge of my own son! Be-
gone!
When you are tired of feeding upon
husks,
Return again to duty and submission,
But not till then.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

I hear and I obey!
[*Exit.*

ENDICOTT.

Oh happy, happy they who have no
children!
He's gone! I hear the hall door shut
behind him.
It sends a dismal echo through my
heart,
As if forever it had closed between us,
And I should look upon his face no
more!¹⁰⁰
Oh, this will drag me down into my
grave, —
To that eternal resting-place wherein
Man lieth down, and riseth not again!
Till the heavens be no more he shall
not wake,
Nor be roused from his sleep; for
Thou dost change
His countenance, and sendest him
away!
[*Exit.*

ACT III

SCENE I. — *The Court of Assistants.*
ENDICOTT, BELLINGHAM, ATHER-
TON, and other magistrates. KEMP-
THORN, MERRY, and constables. Af-
terwards WHARTON, EDITH, and
CHRISTISON.

ENDICOTT.

Call Captain Simon Kempthorn.

MERRY.

Simon Kempthorn,
Come to the bar!

KEMPTHORN *comes forward.*

ENDICOTT.

You are accused of bringing
Into this Jurisdiction, from Barba-
does,

Some persons of that sort and sect of
people
Known by the name of Quakers, and
maintaining
Most dangerous and heretical opin-
ions;
Purposely coming here to propagate
Their heresies and errors; bringing
with them
And spreading sundry books here,
which contain
Their doctrines most corrupt and blas-
phemous,
And contrary to the truth professed
among us.
What say you to this charge?

KEMPTHORN.

I do acknowledge,
Among the passengers on board the
Swallow
Were certain persons saying Thee and
Thou.
They seemed a harmless people, most-
ways silent,
Particularly when they said their
prayers.

ENDICOTT.

Harmless and silent as the pestilence!
You'd better have brought the fever
or the plague
Among us in your ship! Therefore,
this Court,
For preservation of the Peace and
Truth,
Hereby commands you speedily to
transport,
Or cause to be transported speedily,
The aforesaid persons hence unto
Barbadoes,
From whence they came; you paying
all the charges
Of their imprisonment.

KEMPTHORN.

Worshipful sir,
No ship e'er prospered that has car-
ried Quakers
Against their will! I knew a vessel
once —

ENDICOTT.

And for the more effectual perform-
ance
Hereof you are to give security

In bonds amounting to one hundred
pounds.
On your refusal, you will be com-
mitted
To prison till you do it.

KEMPTHORN.

But you see
I cannot do it. The law, sir, of Bar-
badoes
Forbids the landing Quakers on the
island.

ENDICOTT.

Then you will be committed. Who
comes next?

MERRY.

There is another charge against the
Captain.

ENDICOTT.

What is it?

MERRY.

Profane swearing, please your Wor-
ship.
He cursed and swore from Dock
Square to the Court-house.

ENDICOTT.

Then let him stand in the pillory for
one hour.
[Exit KEMPTHORN with constable.
Who's next?

MERRY.

The Quakers.

ENDICOTT.

Call them.

MERRY.

Edward Wharton,
Come to the bar!

WHARTON.

Yea, even to the bench.

ENDICOTT.

Take off your hat.

WHARTON.

My hat offendeth not
If it offendeth any, let him take it;
For I shall not resist.

You've disobey'd and broken that
 commandment
 Which sayeth "Honor thy father and
 thy mother."

WHARTON.

John Endicott, thou art become too
 proud;
 And lovest him who putteth off the⁵⁰
 hat,
 And honoreth thee by bowing of the
 body,
 And sayeth "Worshipful sir!" 'Tis
 time for thee
 To give such follies over, for thou
 mayest
 Be drawing very near unto thy grave.

ENDICOTT.

Now, sirrah, leave your canting.
 Take the oath.

WHARTON.

Nay, sirrah me no sirrahs!

ENDICOTT.

Will you swear?

WHARTON.

Nay, I will not.

ENDICOTT.

You made a great disturbance
 And uproar yesterday in the Meeting-
 house,⁵⁹
 Having your hat on.

WHARTON.

I made no disturbance;
 For peacefully I stood, like other
 people.
 I spake no words; moved against
 none my hand;

But by the hair they haled me out,
and dashed
Their books into my face.

ENDICOTT.

You, Edward Wharton,
On pain of death, depart this Juris-
diction
Within ten days. Such is your sen-
tence. Go.

WHARTON.

John Endicott, it had been well for
thee
If this day's doings thou hadst left
undone.
But, banish me as far as thou hast
power,
Beyond the guard and presence of my
God
Thou canst not banish me!

ENDICOTT.

Depart the Court;
We have no time to listen to your
babble.
Who's next? [Exit WHARTON.

MERRY.

This woman, for the same offence.

EDITH comes forward.

ENDICOTT.

What is your name?

EDITH.

'T is to the world unknown,
But written in the Book of Life.

ENDICOTT.

Take heed
It be not written in the Book of
Death!
What is it?

EDITH.

Edith Christison.

ENDICOTT (*with eagerness*).

The daughter
Of Wenlock Christison?

EDITH.

I am his daughter.

ENDICOTT.

Your father hath given us trouble
many times.
A bold man and a violent, who sets &

At naught the authority of our Church
and State,
And is in banishment on pain of death.
Where are you living?

EDITH.

In the Lord.

ENDICOTT.

Make answer
Without evasion. Where?

EDITH.

My outward being
Is in Barbadoes.

ENDICOTT.

Then why come you here?

EDITH.

I come upon an errand of the Lord.

ENDICOTT.

'T is not the business of the Lord
you're doing;
It is the Devil's. Will you take the
oath?
Give her the Book.

MERRY offers the book.

EDITH.

You offer me this Book
To swear on; and it saith, "Swear
not at all,
Neither by heaven, because it is God's
Throne,
Nor by the earth, because it is his
footstool!"
I dare not swear.

ENDICOTT.

You dare not? Yet you Quakers
Deny this Book of Holy Writ, the
Bible,
To be the Word of God.

EDITH (*reverentially*).

Christ is the Word,
The everlasting oath of God. I dare
not.

ENDICOTT.

You own yourself a Quaker, — do you
not?

EDITH.

I own that in derision and reproach
I am so called.

ENDICOTT.

Then you deny the Scripture
To be the rule of life.

EDITH.

Yea, I believe
The Inner Light, and not the Written
Word,
To be the rule of life.

ENDICOTT.

And you deny
That the Lord's Day is holy.

EDITH.

Every day
Is the Lord's Day. It runs through
all our lives,
As through the pages of the Holy
Bible,
"Thus saith the Lord."

ENDICOTT.

You are accused of making
An horrible disturbance, and affright-
ing
The people in the Meeting-house on
Sunday.
What answer make you?

EDITH.

I do not deny
That I was present in your Steeple-
house
On the First Day; but I made no dis-
turbance.

ENDICOTT.

Why came you there?

EDITH.

Because the Lord commanded.
His word was in my heart, a burning
fire
Shut up within me and consuming
me,
And I was very weary with forbearing;
I could not stay.

ENDICOTT.

'T was not the Lord that sent you;
As an incarnate devil did you come!

EDITH.

On the First Day, when, seated in my
chamber,
I heard the bells toll, calling you to-
gether,

The sound struck at my life, as once
at his,

The holy man, our Founder, when he
heard

The far-off bells toll in the Vale of
Beavor.

It sounded like a market bell to call
The folk together, that the Priest
might set

His wares to sale. And the Lord said
within me,

"Thou must go cry aloud against
that Idol,

And all the worshippers thereof." I
went

Barefooted, clad in sackcloth, and I
stood

And listened at the threshold; and
I heard

The praying and the singing and the
preaching,

Which were but outward forms, and
without power.

Then rose a cry within me, and my
heart

Was filled with admonitions and re-
proofs.

Remembering how the Prophets and
Apostles

Denounced the covetous hirelings and
diviners,

I entered in, and spake the words the
Lord

Commanded me to speak. I could no
less.

ENDICOTT.

Are you a Prophetess?

EDITH.

Is it not written,
"Upon my handmaidens will I pour
out
My spirit, and they shall prophesy"?

ENDICOTT.

Enough;
For out of your own mouth are you
condemned!
Need we hear further?

THE JUDGES.

We are satisfied.

ENDICOTT.

It is sufficient. Edith Christison.
The sentence of the Court is, that you
be

Scourged in three towns, with forty
stripes save one,
Then banished upon pain of death!

EDITH.

Your sentence
Is truly no more terrible to me
Than had you blown a feather into
the air,

Shall answer it. Woe unto him that
buildeth
A town with blood, and stablisheth a
city
By his iniquity!

ENDICOTT.

Who is it makes
Such outcry here?

CHRISTISON (*coming forward*).

I, Wenlock Christison!

ENDICOTT.

Banished on pain of death, why come
you here?

CHRISTISON.

I come to warn you that you shed no
more
The blood of innocent men! It cries
aloud 159
For vengeance to the Lord!

ENDICOTT.

Your life is forfeit
Unto the law; and you shall surely
die,
And shall not live.

CHRISTISON.

Like unto Eleazer,
Maintaining the excellence of ancient
years
And the honor of his gray head, I
stand before you;
Like him disdaining all hypocrisy,
Lest, through desire to live a little
longer,
I get a stain to my old age and name!

ENDICOTT.

Being in banishment, on pain of death,
You come now in among us in rebel-
lion.

CHRISTISON.

I come not in among you in rebel-
lion, 170
But in obedience to the Lord of Hea-
ven.
Not in contempt to any Magistrate,
But only in the love I bear your
souls,
As ye shall know hereafter, when all
men

"I, Wenlock Christison!"

And, as it fell upon me, you had said,
"Take heed it hurt thee not!" God's
will be done! 150

WENLOCK CHRISTISON (*unseen in the
crowd*).

Woe to the city of blood! The stone
shall cry
Out of the wall; the beam from out
the timber

Give an account of deeds done in the
body!
God's righteous judgments ye cannot
escape.

ONE OF THE JUDGES.

Those who have gone before you said
the same,
And yet no judgment of the Lord
hath fallen
Upon us.

CHRISTISON.

He but waiteth till the measure
Of your iniquities shall be filled up, 180
And ye have run your race. Then will
his wrath
Descend upon you to the uttermost!
For thy part, Humphrey Atherton, it
hangs
Over thy head already. It shall come
Suddenly, as a thief doth in the night,
And in the hour when least thou
thinkest of it!

ENDICOTT.

We have a law, and by that law you
die.

CHRISTISON.

I, a free man of England and free-
born,
Appeal unto the laws of mine own
nation!

ENDICOTT.

There's no appeal to England from
this Court! 190
What! do you think our statutes are
but paper?
Are but dead leaves that rustle in the
wind?
Or litter to be trampled under foot?
What say ye, Judges of the Court,—
what say ye?
Shall this man suffer death? Speak
your opinions.

ONE OF THE JUDGES.

I am a mortal man, and die I must,
And that ere long; and I must then
appear
Before the awful judgment-seat of
Christ,
To give account of deeds done in the
body.

My greatest glory on that day will
be, 200
That I have given my vote against
this man.

CHRISTISON.

If, Thomas Danforth, thou hast no-
thing more
To glory in upon that dreadful day
Than blood of innocent people, then
thy glory
Will be turned into shame! The Lord
hath said it!

ANOTHER JUDGE.

I cannot give consent, while other
men
Who have been banished upon pain
of death
Are now in their own houses here
among us.

ENDICOTT.

Ye that will not consent, make record
of it. 209
I thank my God that I am not afraid
To give my judgment. Wenlock
Christison,
You must be taken back from hence
to prison,
Thence to the place of public execu-
tion,
There to be hanged till you be dead
— dead — dead!

CHRISTISON.

If ye have power to take my life from
me, —
Which I do question, — God hath
power to raise
The principle of life in other men,
And send them here among you.
There shall be
No peace unto the wicked, saith my
God.
Listen, ye Magistrates, for the Lord
hath said it! 220
The day ye put his servitors to
death,
That day the Day of your own Visita-
tion,
The Day of Wrath, shall pass above
your heads,
And ye shall be accursed forever-
more!

To EDITH, embracing her.

Cheer up, dear heart! they have not power to harm us.

[Exeunt CHRISTISON and EDITH guarded. The Scene closes.]

SCENE II. — *A street. Enter JOHN ENDICOTT and UPSALL.*

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Scourged in three towns! and yet the busy people
Go up and down the streets on their affairs
Of business or of pleasure, as if nothing
Had happened to disturb them or their thoughts!
When bloody tragedies like this are acted,
The pulses of a nation should stand still;
The town should be in mourning, and the people
Speak only in low whispers to each other.

UPSALL.

I know this people; and that underneath
A cold outside there burns a secret fire
That will find vent, and will not be put out,
Till every remnant of these barbarous laws
Shall be to ashes burned, and blown away.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Scourged in three towns! It is incredible
Such things can be! I feel the blood within me
Fast mounting in rebellion, since in vain
Have I implored compassion of my father!

UPSALL.

You know your father only as a father;
I know him better as a Magistrate.
He is a man both loving and severe; 20
A tender heart; a will inflexible.

None ever loved him more than I have loved him.

He is an upright man and a just man
In all things save the treatment of the Quakers,

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Yet I have found him cruel and unjust
Even as a father. He has driven me forth
Into the street; has shut his door upon me,
With words of bitterness. I am as homeless
As these poor Quakers are.

UPSALL.

Then come with me.
You shall be welcome for your father's sake,
And the old friendship that has been between us.
He will relent ere long. A father's anger
Is like a sword without a handle, piercing
Both ways alike, and wounding him that wields it
No less than him that it is pointed at.
[Exeunt.]

SCENE III. *The prison. Night. EDITH reading the Bible by a lamp.*

EDITH.

"Blessèd are ye when men shall persecute you,
And shall revile you, and shall say against you
All manner of evil falsely for my sake!
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great
Is your reward in heaven. For so the prophets,
Which were before you, have been persecuted."

Enter JOHN ENDICOTT.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Edith!

EDITH.

Who is it that speaketh?

JOHN ENDICOTT.
Saul of Tarsus :
As thou didst call me once.

EDITH (*coming forward*).
Yea, I remember.
Thou art the Governor's son.

JOHN ENDICOTT.
I am ashamed
Thou shouldst remember me.

EDITH.
Why comest thou
Into this dark guest-chamber in the
night ?
What seekest thou ?

JOHN ENDICOTT.
Forgiveness !

EDITH.
I forgive
All who have injured me. What hast
thou done ?

JOHN ENDICOTT.
I have betrayed thee, thinking that in
this
I did God's service. Now, in deep
contrition,
I come to rescue thee.

EDITH.
From what ?

JOHN ENDICOTT.
From prison.

EDITH.
I am safe here within these gloomy
walls.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

From scourging in the streets, and in
three towns!

EDITH.

Remembering who was scourged for
me, I shrink not
Nor shudder at the forty stripes save
one.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Perhaps from death itself!

EDITH.

I fear not death,
Knowing who died for me.

JOHN ENDICOTT (*aside*).

Surely some divine
Ambassador is speaking through those
lips
And looking through those eyes! I
cannot answer!

EDITH.

If all these prison doors stood opened
wide
I would not cross the threshold, — not
one step.
There are invisible bars I cannot break;
There are invisible doors that shut me
in,
And keep me ever steadfast to my
purpose.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Thou hast the patience and the faith
of Saints! 30

EDITH.

Thy Priest hath been with me this day
to save me,
Not only from the death that comes to
all,
But from the second death!

JOHN ENDICOTT.

The Pharisee!
My heart revolts against him and his
creed!
Alas! the coat that was without a
seam
Is rent asunder by contending sects;
Each bears away a portion of the gar-
ment,
Blindly believing that he has the
whole!

EDITH.

When Death, the Healer, shall have
touched our eyes
With moist clay of the grave, then
shall we see 40
The truth as we have never yet be-
held it.
But he that overcometh shall not be
Hurt of the second death. Has he for-
gotten
The many mansions in our father's
house?

JOHN ENDICOTT.

There is no pity in his iron heart!
The hands that now bear stamped
upon their palms
The burning sign of Heresy, here
after
Shall be uplifted against such accus-
ers,
And then the imprinted letter and its
meaning
Will not be Heresy, but Holiness! 50

EDITH.

Remember, thou condemnest thine
own father!

JOHN ENDICOTT.

I have no father! He has cast me
off.
I am as homeless as the wind that
moans
And wanders through the streets.
Oh, come with me!
Do not delay. Thy God shall be my
God,
And where thou goest I will go.

EDITH.

I cannot.
Yet will I not deny it, nor conceal
it;
From the first moment I beheld thy
face
I felt a tenderness in my soul towards
thee.
My mind has since been inward to
the Lord, 60
Waiting his word. It has not yet
been spoken.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

I cannot wait. Trust me. Oh, come
with me!

EDITH.

In the next room, my father, an old
man,
Sitteth imprisoned and condemned to
death,
Willing to prove his faith by martyr-
dom,
And thinkest thou his daughter would
do less?

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Oh, life is sweet, and death is terrible!

EDITH.

I have too long walked hand in hand
with death
To shudder at that pale familiar face.
But leave me now. I wish to be
alone. 70

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Not yet. Oh, let me stay.

EDITH.

Urge me no more.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Alas! good-night. I will not say
good-by!

EDITH.

Put this temptation underneath thy
feet.

To him that overcometh shall be given
The white stone with the new name
written on it,

That no man knows save him that
doth receive it,

And I will give thee a new name, and
call thee

Paul of Damascus and not Saul of
Tarsus.

[Exit ENDICOTT. EDITH sits down
again to read the Bible.

ACT IV

SCENE I. — *King Street, in front of
the town-house. KEMPTHORN in the
pillory. MERRY and a crowd of
lookers-on.*

KEMPTHORN (*sings*).

The world is full of care,
Much like unto a bubble;
Women and care, and care and women,
And women and care and trouble.

Good Master Merry, may I say con-
found?

MERRY.

Ay, that you may.

KEMPTHORN.

Well, then, with your permission,
Confound the Pillory!

MERRY.

That 's the very thing
The joiner said who made the Shrews-
bury stocks.
He said, Confound the stocks, because
they put him
Into his own. He was the first man
in them. 10

KEMPTHORN.

For swearing, was it?

MERRY.

No, it was for charging ;
He charged the town too much ; and
so the town,
To make things square, set him in his
own stocks,
And fined him five pound sterling, —
just enough
To settle his own bill.

KEMPTHORN.

And served him right ;
But, Master Merry, is it not eight
bells?

MERRY.

Not quite.

KEMPTHORN.

For, do you see ? I'm getting tired
Of being perched aloft here in this
cro' nest
Like the first mate of a whaler, or a
Middy
Mast-headed, looking out for land!
Sail ho! 20

Here comes a heavy-laden merchant-
man

With the lee clews eased off, and run-
ning free

Before the wind. A solid man of
Boston,

A comfortable man, with dividends,
And the first salmon, and the first
green peas.

A gentleman passes.

He does not even turn his head to look.

He's gone without a word. Here comes another,

A different kind of craft on a taut bowline, —

Deacon Giles Firmin the apothecary,
A pious and a ponderous citizen, ³⁰
Looking as rubicund and round and splendid

As the great bottle in his own shop window!

DEACON FIRMIN *passes*.

And here's my host of the Three Mariners,

My creditor and trusty taverner,
My corporal in the Great Artillery!
He's not a man to pass me without speaking.

COLE *looks away and passes*.

Don't yaw so; keep your luff, old hypocrite!

Respectable, ah yes, respectable,
You, with your seat in the new Meeting-house,

Your cow-right on the Common! But who's this? ⁴⁰

I did not know the Mary Ann was in!
And yet this is my old friend, Captain Goldsmith,

As sure as I stand in the bilboes here.
Why, Ralph, my boy!

Enter RALPH GOLDSMITH.

GOLDSMITH.

Why, Simon, is it you?
Set in the bilboes?

KEMPTHORN.

Chock-a-block, you see,
And without chafing-gear.

GOLDSMITH.

And what's it for?

KEMPTHORN.

Ask that starbowline with the boat-hook there,
That handsome man.

MERRY (*bowing*).

For swearing.

KEMPTHORN.

In this town

They put sea-captains in the stocks
for swearing,
And Quakers for not swearing. So
look out. ⁵⁰

GOLDSMITH.

I pray you set him free; he meant no harm;
'Tis an old habit he picked up afloat.

MERRY.

Well, as your time is out, you may come down.

The law allows you now to go at large
Like Elder Oliver's horse upon the Common.

KEMPTHORN.

Now, hearties, bear a hand! Let go and haul.

KEMPTHORN *is set free, and comes forward, shaking GOLDSMITH'S hand.*

KEMPTHORN.

Give me your hand, Ralph. Ah, how good it feels!
The hand of an old friend.

GOLDSMITH.

God bless you, Simon!

KEMPTHORN.

Now let us make a straight wake for the tavern

Of the Three Mariners, Samuel Cole commander; ⁶⁰

Where we can take our ease, and see the shipping,
And talk about old times.

GOLDSMITH.

First I must pay
My duty to the Governor, and take him
His letters and dispatches. Come with me.

KEMPTHORN.

I'd rather not. I saw him yesterday.

GOLDSMITH.

Then wait for me at the Three Nuns and Comb.

KEMPTHORN.

I thank you. That's too near to the town pump.

"Why, Simon, is it you?
Set in the bilboes?"

I will go with you to the Governor's,
And wait outside there, sailing off and
on;
If I am wanted, you can hoist a
signal. 70

MERRY.

Shall I go with you and point out the
way?

GOLDSMITH.

Oh no, I thank you. I am not a stran-
ger
Here in your crooked little town.

MERRY.

How now, sir?
Do you abuse our town? [Exit.

GOLDSMITH.

Oh, no offence.

KEMPTHORN.

Ralph, I am under bonds for a hun-
dred pound.

GOLDSMITH.

Hard lines. What for?

KEMPTHORN.

To take some Quakers back
I brought here from Barbadoes in the
Swallow.

And how to do it I don't clearly see,
For one of them is banished, and an-
other
Is sentenced to be hanged! What
shall I do? 80

GOLDSMITH.

Just slip your hawser on some cloudy
night;
Sheer off, and pay it with the topsail,
Simon! [Exit.

SCENE II. — *Street in front of the
prison. In the background a gate-
way and several flights of steps lead-
ing up terraces to the Governor's
house. A pump on one side of the
street. JOHN ENDICOTT, MERRY, UP-
BALL, and others. A drum beats.*

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Oh shame, shame, shame!

MERRY.

Yes, it would be a shame
But for the damnable sin of Heresy!

JOHN ENDICOTT.

A woman scourged and dragged about
our streets!

MERRY.

Well, Roxbury and Dorchester must
take
Their share of shame. She will be
whipped in each!
Three towns, and Forty Stripes save
one; that makes
Thirteen in each.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

And are we Jews or Christians?
See where she comes, amid a gaping
crowd!
And she a child. Oh, pitiful! pitiful!
There's blood upon her clothes, her
hands, her feet!

*Enter MARSHAL and a drummer,
EDITH, stripped to the waist, followed
by the hangman with a scourge, and
a noisy crowd.*

EDITH.

Here let me rest one moment. I am
tired.
Will some one give me water?

MERRY.

At his peril.

UPSALL.

Alas! that I should live to see this
day!

A WOMAN.

Did I forsake my father and my
mother
And come here to New England to see
this?

EDITH.

I am athirst. Will no one give me
water?

JOHN ENDICOTT (*making his way
through the crowd with water*).

In the Lord's name!

EDITH (*drinking*).

In his name I receive it!
Sweet as the water of Samaria's well

This water tastes. I thank thee. Is
it thou?
I was afraid thou hadst deserted
me.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Never will I desert thee, nor deny
thee.
Be comforted.

MERRY.

O Master Endicott,
Be careful what you say.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Peace, idle babbler!

MERRY.

You'll rue these words!

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Art thou not better now?

EDITH.

They've struck me as with roses.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Ah, these wounds!
These bloody garments!

EDITH.

It is granted me
To seal my testimony with my blood.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

O blood-red seal of man's vindictive
wrath!

O roses of the garden of the Lord!
I, of the household of Iscariot,
I have betrayed in thee my Lord and
Master!

WENLOCK CHRISTISON *appears above,
at the window of the prison, stretch-
ing out his hands through the bars.*

CHRISTISON.

Be of good courage, O my child! my
child!
Blessèd art thou when men shall per-
secute thee!
Fear not their faces, saith the Lord,
fear not,
For I am with thee to deliver thee.

A CITIZEN.

Who is it crying from the prison yon-
der?

MERRY.

It is old Wenlock Christison.

CHRISTISON.

Remember
Him who was scourged, and mocked,
and crucified!
I see his messengers attending thee.
Be steadfast, oh, be steadfast to the
end!

40

EDITH (*with exultation*).

I cannot reach thee with these arms,
O father!
But closely in my soul do I embrace
thee
And hold thee. In thy dungeon and
thy death
I will be with thee, and will comfort
thee!

MARSHAL.

Come, put an end to this. Let the
drum beat.

*The drum beats. Exeunt all but JOHN
ENDICOTT, UPSALL, and MERRY.*

CHRISTISON.

Dear child, farewell! Never shall I
behold
Thy face again with these bleared eyes
of flesh;
And never wast thou fairer, lovelier,
dearer
Than now, when scourged and bleed-
ing, and insulted
For the truth's sake. O pitiless, piti-
less town!
The wrath of God hangs over thee;
and the day
Is near at hand when thou shalt be
abandoned
To desolation and the breeding of
nettles.
The bittern and the cormorant shall
lodge
Upon thine upper lintels, and their
voice
Sing in thy windows. Yea, thus saith
the Lord!

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Awake! awake! ye sleepers, ere too
late,
And wipe these bloody statutes from
your books!

[Exit.

MERRY.

Take heed; the walls have ears!

UPSALL.

At last, the heart
Of every honest man must speak or
break!

*Enter GOVERNOR ENDICOTT with his
halberdiers.*

ENDICOTT.

What is this stir and tumult in the
street?

MERRY.

Worshipful sir, the whipping of a
girl,
And her old father howling from the
prison.

ENDICOTT (*to his halberdiers*).

Go on.

CHRISTISON.

Antiochus! Antiochus!
O thou that slayest the Maccabees!
The Lord
Shall smite thee with incurable dis-
ease,
And no man shall endure to carry
thee!

MERRY.

Peace, old blasphemer!

CHRISTISON.

I both feel and see
The presence and the waft of death go
forth
Against thee, and already thou dost
look
Like one that's dead!

70

MERRY (*pointing*).

And there is your own son,
Worshipful sir, abetting the sedition.

ENDICOTT.

Arrest him. Do not spare him.

MERRY (*aside*).

His own child!
There is some special providence takes
care
That none shall be too happy in this
world!
His own first-born.

ENDICOTT.

O Absalom, my son !
[Exeunt; the Governor with his halberdiers ascending the steps of his house.]

SCENE III. — *The Governor's private room. Papers upon the table. ENDICOTT and BELLINGHAM.*

ENDICOTT.

There is a ship from England has come in,
 Bringing dispatches and much news from home.
 His Majesty was at the Abbey crowned;
 And when the coronation was complete
 There passed a mighty tempest o'er the city,
 Portentous with great thunderings and lightnings.

BELLINGHAM.

After his father's, if I well remember,
 There was an earthquake, that foreboded evil.

ENDICOTT.

Ten of the Regicides have been put to death !
 The bodies of Cromwell, Ireton, and Bradshaw¹⁰
 Have been dragged from their graves, and publicly
 Hanged in their shrouds at Tyburn.

BELLINGHAM.

Horrible !

ENDICOTT.

Thus the old tyranny revives again !
 Its arm is long enough to reach us here,
 As you will see. For, more insulting still
 Than flaunting in our faces dead men's shrouds,
 Here is the King's Mandamus, taking from us,
 From this day forth, all power to punish Quakers.

BELLINGHAM.

That takes from us all power; we are but puppets,¹⁹
 And can no longer execute our laws.

ENDICOTT.

His Majesty begins with pleasant words,
 "Trusty and well-beloved, we greet you well;"
 Then with a ruthless hand he strips from me
 All that which makes me what I am; as if
 From some old general in the field, grown gray
 In service, scarred with many wounds, Just at the hour of victory, he should strip
 His badge of office and his well-gained honors,
 And thrust him back into the ranks again.
Opens the Mandamus and hands it to BELLINGHAM; and, while he is reading, ENDICOTT walks up and down the room.

Here, read it for yourself; you see his words³⁰
 Are pleasant words — considerate — not reproachful —
 Nothing could be more gentle — or more royal;
 But then the meaning underneath the words,
 Mark that. He says all people known as Quakers
 Among us, now condemned to suffer death
 Or any corporal punishment whatever,
 Who are imprisoned, or may be obnoxious
 To the like condemnation, shall be sent
 Forthwith to England, to be dealt with there
 In such wise as shall be agreeable⁴⁰
 Unto the English law and their demerits.
 Is it not so ?

BELLINGHAM (*returning the paper*).

Ay, so the paper says.

ENDICOTT.

It means we shall no longer rule the Province;
 It means farewell to law and liberty,
 Authority, respect for Magistrates,

The peace and welfare of the Commonwealth.

If all the knaves upon this continent

Can make appeal to England, and so thwart

The ends of truth and justice by delay,

Our power is gone forever. We are nothing

But ciphers, valueless save when we follow⁵⁰

Some unit; and our unit is the King!
'T is he that gives us value.

BELLINGHAM.

I confess
Such seems to be the meaning of this paper,

But being the King's Mandamus, signed and sealed,

We must obey, or we are in rebellion.

ENDICOTT.

I tell you, Richard Bellingham, — I tell you,

That this is the beginning of a struggle

Of which no mortal can foresee the end.

I shall not live to fight the battle for you,⁶⁰

I am a man disgraced in every way;
This order takes from me my self-respect

And the respect of others. 'T is my doom,

Yes, my death-warrant, but must be obeyed!

Take it, and see that it is executed
So far as this, that all be set at large;

But see that none of them be sent to England

To bear false witness, and to spread reports

That might be prejudicial to ourselves.

[*Exit* BELLINGHAM.]

There's a dull pain keeps knocking at my heart,⁷⁰

Dolefully saying, "Set thy house in order,

For thou shalt surely die, and shalt not live!"

For me the shadow on the dial-plate
Goeth not back, but on into the dark!

[*Exit.*]

SCENE IV. — *The street. A crowd, reading a placard on the door of the Meeting-house. NICHOLAS UPSALL among them. Enter JOHN NORTON.*

NORTON.

What is this gathering here?

UPSALL.

One William Brand,
An old man like ourselves, and weak in body,

Has been so cruelly tortured in his prison,

The people are excited, and they threaten

To tear the prison down.

NORTON.

What has been done?

UPSALL.

He has been put in irons, with his neck

And heels tied close together, and so left

From five in the morning until nine at night.

NORTON.

What more was done?

UPSALL.

He has been kept five days
In prison without food, and cruelly beaten,

So that his limbs were cold, his senses stopped.¹⁰

NORTON.

What more?

UPSALL.

And is this not enough?

NORTON.

Now hear me.
This William Brand of yours has tried to beat

Our Gospel Ordinances black and blue;

And, if he has been beaten in like manner,

It is but justice, and I will appear
In his behalf that did so. I suppose
That he refused to work.

UPSALL.

He was too weak.
How could an old man work, when he
was starving? 19

NORTON.

And what is this placard?

UPSALL.

The Magistrates,
To appease the people and prevent a
tumult,
Have put up these placards through-
out the town,
Declaring that the jailer shalt be
dealt with
Impartially and sternly by the Court.

NORTON (*tearing down the placard*).
Down with this weak and cowardly
concession,
This flag of truce with Satan and with
Sin!

I fling it in his face! I trample it
Under my feet! It is his cunning craft,
The masterpiece of his diplomacy,
To cry and plead for boundless tolera-
tion. 30

But toleration is the first-born child
Of all abominations and deceits.
There is no room in Christ's trium-
phant army

For tolerationists. And if an An-
gel

Preach any other gospel unto you
Than that ye have received, God's
malediction

Descend upon him! Let him be ac-
cursed! [*Exit.*]

UPSALL.

Now, go thy ways, John Norton! go
thy ways,

Thou Orthodox Evangelist, as men
call thee!

But even now there cometh out of
England, 40

Like an o'ertaking and accusing con-
science,

"How beautiful are these autumnal woods!"

An outraged man, to call thee to
account
For the unrighteous murder of his
soul [Exit.

SCENE V. — *The Wilderness.* Enter
EDITH.

EDITH.

How beautiful are these autumnal
woods!
The wilderness doth blossom like the
rose,
And change into a garden of the Lord!
How silent everywhere! Alone and
lost
Here in the forest, there comes over me
An inward awfulness. I recall the
words

Of the Apostle Paul: "In journey-
ings often,
Often in perils in the wilderness,
In weariness, in painfulness, in
watchings,
In hunger and thirst, in cold and
nakedness;"
And I forget my weariness and pain,
My watchings, and my hunger and
my thirst.
The Lord hath said that He will seek
his flock
In cloudy and dark days, and they
shall dwell
Securely in the wilderness, and sleep
Safe in the woods! Whichever way I
turn,
I come back with my face towards the
town.

Dimly I see it, and the sea beyond
it.

O cruel town! I know what waits me
there,

And yet I must go back; for ever
louder

I hear the inward calling of the
Spirit,

And must obey the voice. O woods,
that wear

Your golden crown of martyrdom,
blood-stained,

From you I learn a lesson of submis-
sion,

And am obedient even unto death,
If God so wills it. *[Exit.*

JOHN ENDICOTT (*within*).

Edith! Edith! Edith!

He enters.

It is in vain! I call, she answers
not;

I follow, but I find no trace of her!
Blood! blood! The leaves above me

and around me
Are red with blood! The pathways

of the forest,
The clouds that canopy the setting
sun

And even the little river in the mead-
ows

Are stained with it! Where'er I
look, I see it!

Away, thou horrible vision! Leave
me! leave me!

Alas! yon winding stream, that
gropes its way

Through mist and shadow, doubling
on itself,

At length will find, by the unerring
law

Of nature, what it seeks. O soul of
man,

Groping through mist and shadow,
and recoiling

Back on thyself, are, too, thy devious
ways

Subject to law? and when thou
seemest to wander

The farthest from thy goal, art thou
still drawing

Nearer and nearer to it, till at length
Thou findest, like the river, what thou

seekest? *[Exit.*

ACT V

SCENE I. — *Daybreak. Street in front
of UPSALL'S house. A light in the
window. Enter JOHN ENDICOTT.*

JOHN ENDICOTT.

O silent, sombre, and deserted streets,
To me ye're peopled with a sad pro-
cession,

And echo only to the voice of sorrow!
O houses full of peacefulness and
sleep,

Far better were it to awake no more
Than wake to look upon such scenes
again!

There is a light in Master Upsall's
window.

The good man is already risen, for
sleep

Deserts the couches of the old.

Knocks at UPSALL'S door.

UPSALL (*at the window*).

Who's there?

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Am I so changed you do not know
my voice? 10

UPSALL.

I know you. Have you heard what
things have happened?

JOHN ENDICOTT.

I have heard nothing.

UPSALL.

Stay; I will come down.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

I am afraid some dreadful news
awaits me!

I do not dare to ask, yet am impa-
tient

To know the worst. Oh, I am very
weary

With waiting and with watching and
pursuing!

Enter UPSALL.

UPSALL.

Thank God, you have come back!
I've much to tell you.

Where have you been?

JOHN ENDICOTT.

You know that I was seized,
 Fined, and released again. You know
 that Edith,
 After her scourging in three towns,
 was banished²⁰
 Into the wilderness, into the land
 That is not sown; and there I followed
 her,
 But found her not. Where is she?

UPSALL.

She is here.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Oh, do not speak that word, for it
 means death!

UPSALL.

No, it means life. She sleeps in yon-
 der chamber.
 Listen to me. When news of Leddra's
 death
 Reached England, Edward Burroughs,
 having boldly
 Got access to the presence of the
 King,

Told him there was a vein of innocent
 blood

Opened in his dominions here, which
 threatened³⁰

To overrun them all. The King re-
 plied,

"But I will stop that vein!" and he
 forthwith

Sent his Mandamus to our Magis-
 trates,

That they proceed no further in this
 business.

So all are pardoned, and all set at
 large.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

Thank God! This is a victory for
 truth!

Our thoughts are free. They cannot
 be shut up

In prison walls, nor put to death on
 scaffolds!

UPSALL.

Come in; the morning air blows sharp
 and cold³⁹

Through the damp streets.

JOHN ENDICOTT.

It is the dawn of day
That chases the old darkness from our
sky,
And fills the land with liberty and
light. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II. — *The parlor of the Three
Mariners. Enter KEMPTHORN.*

KEMPTHORN.

A dull life this, — a dull life anyway!
Ready for sea; the cargo all aboard,
Cleared for Barbadoes, and a fair wind
blowing
From nor'-nor'-west; and I, an idle
lubber,
Laid neck and heels by that con-
founded bond!
I said to Ralph, says I, "What's to
be done?"
Says he: "Just slip your hawser in
the night;
Sheer off, and pay it with the topsail,
Simon."
But that won't do; because, you see,
the owners
Somehow or other are mixed up with
it.
Here are King Charles's Twelve Good
Rules, that Cole
Thinks as important as the Rule of
Three.

Reads.

"Make no comparisons; make no
long meals."
Those are good rules and golden for a
landlord
To hang in his best parlor, framed
and glazed!
"Maintain no ill opinions; urge no
healths."
I drink the King's, whatever he may
say,
And, as to ill opinions, that depends.
Now of Ralph Goldsmith I've a good
opinion,
And of the bilboes I've an ill opin-
ion;
And both of these opinions I'll main-
tain²⁰
As long as there's a shot left in the
locker.

*Enter EDWARD BUTTER with an ear-
trumpet.*

BUTTER.

Good morning, Captain Kempthorn.

KEMPTHORN.

Sir, to you.
You've the advantage of me. I don't
know you.
What may I call your name?

BUTTER.

That's not your name?

KEMPTHORN.

Yes, that's my name. What's yours?

BUTTER.

My name is Butter.
I am the treasurer of the Common-
wealth.

KEMPTHORN.

Will you be seated?

BUTTER.

What say? Who's conceited?

KEMPTHORN.

Will you sit down?

BUTTER.

Oh, thank you.

KEMPTHORN.

Spread yourself
Upon this chair, sweet Butter.

BUTTER (*sitting down*).

A fine morning.

KEMPTHORN.

Nothing's the matter with it that I
know of.
I have seen better, and I have seen³¹
worse.
The wind's nor'-west. That's fair
for them that sail.

BUTTER.

You need not speak so loud; I under-
stand you.
You sail to-day.

KEMPTHORN.

No, I don't sail to-day.
So, be it fair or foul, it matters not.
Say, will you smoke? There's choice
tobacco here.

BUTTER.

No, thank you. It's against the law
to smoke.

KEMPTHORN.

Then, will you drink? There's good
ale at this inn.

BUTTER.

No, thank you. It's against the law
to drink. 40

KEMPTHORN.

Well, almost everything's against the
law
In this good town. Give a wide berth
to one thing,
You're sure to fetch up soon on some-
thing else.

BUTTER.

And so you sail to-day for dear Old
England.
I am not one of those who think a
sup
Of this New England air is better
worth
Than a whole draught of our Old
England's ale.

KEMPTHORN.

Nor I. Give me the ale and keep the
air.
But, as I said, I do not sail to-day.

BUTTER.

Ah yes; you sail to-day.

KEMPTHORN.

I'm under bonds
To take some Quakers back to the
Barbadoes; 51
And one of them is banished, and an-
other.
Is sentenced to be hanged.

BUTTER.

No, all are pardoned,
All are set free, by order of the
Court;
But some of them would fain return
to England.
You must not take them. Upon that
condition
Your bond is cancelled.

KEMPTHORN.

Ah, the wind has shifted!
I pray you, do you speak officially?

BUTTER.

I always speak officially. To prove it,
Here is the bond.

Rising and giving a paper.

KEMPTHORN.

And here's my hand upon it.
And, look you, when I say I'll do a
thing 61
The thing is done. Am I now free to
go?

BUTTER.

What say?

KEMPTHORN.

I say, confound the tedious man
With his strange speaking-trumpet!
Can I go?

BUTTER.

You're free to go, by order of the
Court.

Your servant, sir. [Exit.

KEMPTHORN (*shouting from the win-
dow*).

Swallow, ahoy! Hallo!
If ever a man was happy to leave
Boston,
That man is Simon Kempthorn of the
Swallow!

Reënter BUTTER.

BUTTER.

Pray, did you call?

KEMPTHORN.

Call? Yes, I hailed the Swallow.

BUTTER.

That's not my name. My name is
Edward Butter. 70
You need not speak so loud.

KEMPTHORN (*shaking hands*).

Good-by! Good-by!

BUTTER.

Your servant, sir.

KEMPTHORN.

And yours a thousand times!
[Exeunt.

Of the disconsolate city! Bellingham,
I did not put those wretched men to
death.
I did but guard the passage with the
sword
Pointed towards them, and they
rushed upon it!
Yet now I would that I had taken no
part
In all that bloody work.

BELLINGHAM.

The guilt of it
Be on their heads, not ours.

ENDICOTT.

Are all set free?

BELLINGHAM.

All are at large.

ENDICOTT.

And none have been sent back
To England to malign us with the
King? 50

BELLINGHAM.

The ship that brought them sails this
very hour,
But carries no one back.

A distant cannon.

ENDICOTT.

What is that gun?

BELLINGHAM.

Her parting signal. Through the
window there,
Look, you can see her sails, above the
roofs,
Dropping below the Castle, outward
bound.

ENDICOTT.

O white, white, white! Would that
my soul had wings
As spotless as those shining sails to
fly with!
Now lay this cushion straight. I
thank you. Hark!
I thought I heard the hall door open
and shut!
I thought I heard the footsteps of my
boy! 60

BELLINGHAM.

It was the wind. There's no one in
the passage.

ENDICOTT.

O Absalom, my son! I feel the
world
Sinking beneath me, sinking, sinking,
sinking!
Death knocks! I go to meet him!
Welcome, Death!
*Rises, and sinks back dead; his head
falling aside upon his shoulder.*

BELLINGHAM.

O ghastly sight! Like one who has
been hanged!
Endicott! Endicott! He makes no
answer!

Raises ENDICOTT's head.

He breathes no more! How bright
this signet-ring
Glitters upon his hand, where he has
worn it
Through such long years of trouble,
as if Death
Had given him this memento of affec-
tion, 70
And whispered in his ear, "Remem-
ber me!"
How placid and how quiet is his face,
Now that the struggle and the strife
are ended!
Only the acrid spirit of the times
Corroded this true steel. Oh, rest in
peace,
Courageous heart! Forever rest in
peace!

GILES COREY OF THE SALEM FARMS

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

GILES COREY	<i>Farmer.</i>
JOHN HATHORNE	<i>Magistrate.</i>
COTTON MATHER	<i>Minister of the Gospel.</i>
JONATHAN WALCOT	<i>A youth.</i>
RICHARD GARDNER	<i>Sea-Captain.</i>
JOHN GLOYD	<i>Corey's hired man.</i>
MARTHA	<i>Wife of Giles Corey.</i>
TITUBA	<i>An Indian woman.</i>
MARY WALCOT	<i>One of the Afflicted.</i>

The Scene is in Salem in the year 1692.

PROLOGUE

DELUSIONS of the days that once have
been,
Witchcraft and wonders of the world
unseen,

BELLINGHAM.

By his own fireside, in the afternoon,
A faintness and a giddiness came o'er
him ;
And, leaning on the chimney-piece, he
cried,
"The hand of God is on me!" and fell
dead.

ENDICOTT.

And did not some one say, or have I
dreamed it,
That Humphrey Atherton is dead?

BELLINGHAM.

Alas!
He too is gone, and by a death as sud-
den.

ENDICOTT.

I am not superstitious, Bellingham,
And yet I tremble lest it may have
been
A judgment on him.

BELLINGHAM.

So the people think.
They say his horse saw standing in
the way
The ghost of William Leddra, and
was frightened.
And furthermore, brave Richard Dav-
enport,
The captain of the Castle, in the storm
Has been struck dead by lightning.

. . . "Outward bound"

Returning home one evening, at the
place
Where usually the Quakers have
been scourged,
His horse took fright, and threw him
to the ground,
So that his brains were dashed about
the street.

30

ENDICOTT.

Speak no more.
For as I listen to your voice it seems
As if the Seven Thunders uttered
their voices,
And the dead bodies lay about the
streets

40

I know them, and the places where
they hide
In field and meadow; and I know
their secrets,
And gather them because they give
me power¹⁰
Over all men and women. Armed
with these,
I, Tituba, an Indian and a slave,
Am stronger than the captain with his
sword,
Am richer than the merchant with his
money,

The death of cattle and the blight of
corn,
The shipwreck, the tornado, and the
fire, —
These are my doings, and they know
it not.
Thus I work vengeance on mine ene-
mies,
Who, while they call me slave, are
slaves to me!
Exit TITUBA. *Enter* MATHER, booted
and spurred, with a riding-whip in
his hand.

Witch HILL, Salem

Am wiser than the scholar with his
books,
Mightier than Ministers and Magis-
trates,
With all the fear and reverence that
attend them!
For I can fill their bones with aches
and pains,
Can make them cough with asthma,
shake with palsy,
Can make their daughters see and talk
with ghosts,²⁰
Or fall into delirium and convulsions.
I have the Evil Eye, the Evil Hand;
A touch from me and they are weak
with pain,
A look from me, and they consume
and die.

MATHER.
Methinks that I have come by paths
unknown³⁰
Into the land and atmosphere of
Witches;
For, meditating as I journeyed on,
Lo! I have lost my way! If I remem-
ber
Rightly, it is Scribonius the learned
That tells the story of a man who,
praying
For one that was possessed by Evil
Spirits,
Was struck by Evil Spirits in the face;
I, journeying to circumvent the
Witches
Surely by Witches have been led
astray.

I am persuaded there are few affairs ⁴⁰
 In which the Devil doth not interfere.
 We cannot undertake a journey even,
 But Satan will be there to meddle
 with it
 By hindering or by furthering. He
 hath led me
 Into this thicket, struck me in the face
 With branches of the trees, and so en-
 tangled
 The fetlocks of my horse with vines
 and brambles,
 That I must needs dismount, and
 search on foot
 For the lost pathway leading to the
 village.

Reënter TITUBA.

What shape is this? What monstrous
 apparition, ⁵⁰
 Exceeding fierce, that none may pass
 that way?
 Tell me, good woman, if you are a
 woman —

TITUBA.

I am a woman, but I am not good.
 Witch!

MATHER.

Then tell me, Witch and woman,
 For you must know the pathways
 through this wood,
 Where lieth Salem Village?

TITUBA.

Reverend sir,
 The village is near by. I'm going
 there
 With these few herbs. I'll lead you.
 Follow me.

MATHER.

First say, who are you? I am loath
 to follow ⁵⁹
 A stranger in this wilderness, for fear
 Of being misled, and left in some
 morass.
 Who are you?

TITUBA.

I am Tituba the Witch,
 Wife of John Indian.

MATHER.

You are Tituba?
 I know you then. You have re-
 nounced the Devil,

And have become a penitent confessor.
 The Lord be praised! Go on, I'll fol-
 low you.
 Wait only till I fetch my horse, that
 stands
 Tethered among the trees, not far
 from here.

TITUBA.

Let me get up behind you, reverend
 sir.

MATHER.

The Lord forbid! What would the
 people think, ⁷⁰
 If they should see the Reverend Cot-
 ton Mather
 Ride into Salem with a Witch behind
 him?
 The Lord forbid!

TITUBA.

I do not need a horse!
 I can ride through the air upon a
 stick,
 Above the tree-tops and above the
 houses,
 And no one see me, no one overtake
 me! *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II. — *A room at* JUSTICE HA-
 THORNE'S. *A clock in the corner.*
Enter HATHORNE and MATHER.

HATHORNE.

You are welcome, reverend sir, thrice
 welcome here
 Beneath my humble roof.

MATHER.

I thank your Worship.

HATHORNE.

Pray you be seated. You must be
 fatigued
 With your long ride through unfre-
 quented woods.

They sit down.

MATHER.

You know the purport of my visit
 here, —
 To be advised by you, and counsel
 with you,
 And with the Reverend Clergy of the
 village,

Touching these witchcrafts that so
much afflict you ;
And see with mine own eyes the won-
ders told
Of spectres and the shadows of the
dead,¹⁰
That come back from their graves to
speak with men.

HATHORNE.

Some men there are, I have known
such, who think
That the two worlds — the seen and
the unseen,
The world of matter and the world of
spirit —
Are like the hemispheres upon our
maps,
And touch each other only at a point.
But these two worlds are not divided
thus,
Save for the purposes of common
speech.
They form one globe, in which the
parted seas¹⁹
All flow together and are intermingled,
While the great continents remain dis-
tinct.

MATHER.

I doubt it not. The spiritual world
Lies all about us, and its avenues
Are open to the unseen feet of phan-
toms
That come and go, and we perceive
them not,
Save by their influence, or when at
times
A most mysterious Providence per-
mits them
To manifest themselves to mortal eyes.

HATHORNE.

You, who are always welcome here
among us,
Are doubly welcome now. We need
your wisdom,³⁰
Your learning in these things, to be
our guide.
The Devil hath come down in wrath
upon us,
And ravages the land with all his
hosts.

MATHER.

The Unclean Spirit said, "My name is
Legion!"

Multitudes in the Valley of Destruc-
tion !
But when our fervent, well-directed
prayers,
Which are the great artillery of Hea-
ven,
Are brought into the field, I see them
scattered
And driven like autumn leaves before
the wind.

HATHORNE.

You, as a Minister of God, can meet
them⁴⁰
With spiritual weapons ; but, alas !
I, as a Magistrate, must combat them
With weapons from the armory of the
flesh.

MATHER.

These wonders of the world invis-
ble, —
These spectral shapes that haunt our
habitations, —
The multiplied and manifold afflic-
tions
With which the aged and the dying
saints
Have their death prefaced and their
age imbittered, —
Are but prophetic trumpets that pro-
claim
The Second Coming of our Lord on
earth.⁵⁰
The evening wolves will be much
more abroad,
When we are near the evening of the
world.

HATHORNE.

When you shall see, as I have hourly
seen,
The sorceries and the witchcrafts that
torment us,
See children tortured by invisible
spirits,
And wasted and consumed by powers
unseen,
You will confess the half has not been
told you.

MATHER.

It must be so. The death-pangs of the
Devil
Will make him more a Devil than be-
fore;

And Nebuchadnezzar's furnace will be
heated⁶⁰
Seven times more hot before its putting out.

HATHORNE.

Advise me, reverend sir. I look to
you
For counsel and for guidance in this
matter.
What further shall we do?

MATHER.

Remember this,
That as a sparrow falls not to the
ground
Without the will of God, so not a
Devil
Can come down from the air without
his leave.
We must inquire.

HATHORNE.

Dear sir, we have inquired;
Sifted the matter thoroughly through
and through,⁶⁹
And then resifted it.

MATHER.

If God permits
These Evil Spirits from the unseen
regions
To visit us with surprising informations,
We must inquire what cause there is
for this,
But not receive the testimony borne
By spectres as conclusive proof of
guilt
In the accused.

HATHORNE.

Upon such evidence
We do not rest our case. The ways
are many
In which the guilty do betray themselves.

MATHER.

Be careful. Carry the knife with such
exactness,
That on one side no innocent blood be
shed⁸⁰
By too excessive zeal, and on the
other
No shelter given to any work of darkness.

HATHORNE.

For one, I do not fear excess of zeal.
What do we gain by parleying with
the Devil?

You reason, but you hesitate to act!
Ah, reverend sir! believe me, in such
cases

The only safety is in acting promptly.
'T is not the part of wisdom to delay
In things where not to do is still to do
A deed more fatal than the deed we
shrink from.⁹⁰

You are a man of books and meditation,
But I am one who acts.

MATHER.

God give us wisdom
In the directing of this thorny business,
And guide us, lest New England
should become
Of an unsavory and sulphurous odor
In the opinion of the world abroad!

The clock strikes.

I never hear the striking of a clock
Without a warning and an admonition
That time is on the wing, and we
must quicken
Our tardy pace in journeying Heaven-
ward,¹⁰⁰
As Israel did in journeying Canaan-
ward!

They rise.

HATHORNE.

Then let us make all haste; and I will
show you
In what disguises and what fearful
shapes
The Unclean Spirits haunt this neighborhood,
And you will pardon my excess of
zeal.

MATHER.

Ah, poor New England! He who
hurricanoed
The house of Job is making now on
thee
One last assault, more deadly and
more snarled
With unintelligible circumstances
Than any thou hast hitherto encountered!¹¹⁰

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III. — *A room in WALCOT'S house. MARY WALCOT seated in an arm-chair. TITUBA with a mirror.*

MARY.

Tell me another story, Tituba.
A drowsiness is stealing over me
Which is not sleep; for, though I
 close mine eyes,
I am awake, and in another world.
Dim faces of the dead and of the ab-
 sent
Come floating up before me, — float-
 ing, fading,
And disappearing.

TITUBA.

Look into this glass.
What see you?

MARY.

Nothing but a golden vapor.
Yes, something more. An island, with
 the sea
Breaking all round it, like a blooming
 hedge.
What land is this?

TITUBA.

It is San Salvador,
Where Tituba was born. What see
 you now?

MARY.

A man all black and fierce.

TITUBA.

That is my father.
He was an Obi man, and taught me
 magic, —
Taught me the use of herbs and
 images.
What is he doing?

MARY.

Holding in his hand
A waxen figure. He is melting it
Slowly before a fire.

TITUBA.

And now what see you?

MARY.

A woman lying on a bed of leaves,
Wasted and worn away. Ah, she is
 dying!

TITUBA.

That is the way the Obi men destroy
The people they dislike! That is the
 way
Some one is wasting and consuming
 you.

MARY.

You terrify me, Tituba! Oh, save me
From those who make me pine and
 waste away!
Who are they? Tell me.

TITUBA.

That I do not know,
But you will see them. They will
 come to you.

MARY.

No, do not let them come! I cannot
 bear it!
I am too weak to bear it! I am dying.
 Falls into a trance.

TITUBA.

Hark! there is some one coming!
 Enter HATHORNE, MATHER, and
 WALCOT.

WALCOT.

There she lies,
Wasted and worn by devilish incanta-
 tions!
O my poor sister!

MATHER.

Is she always thus?

WALCOT.

Nay, she is sometimes tortured by
 convulsions.

MATHER.

Poor child! How thin she is! How
 wan and wasted!

HATHORNE.

Observe her. She is troubled in her
 sleep.

MATHER.

Some fearful vision haunts her.

HATHORNE.

You now see
With your own eyes, and touch with
 your own hands,
The mysteries of this Witchcraft.

ARGUS
To see and touch them all.

HATHORNE.
You now have entered
The realm of ghosts and phantoms, —
the vast realm
Of the unknown and the invisible,
Through whose wide-open gates there
blows a wind
From the dark valley of the shadow of
Death,
That freezes us with horror.

MARY (*starting*).
Take her hence!
Take her away from me. I see her
there!
She's coming to torment me!

WALCOT (*taking her hand*).
O my sister!
What frightens you? She neither
hears nor sees me.
She's in a trance.

MARY.
Do you not see her there?

TITUBA.
My child, who is it?

39

MARY.
Ah, I do not know.
I cannot see her face.

TITUBA.
How she is clad?

MARY.
She wears a crimson bodice. In her
hand⁵²
She holds an image, and is pinching
it
Between her fingers. Ah, she tor-
tures me!
I see her face now. It is Goodwife
Bishop!
Why does she torture me? I never
harmed her!
And now she strikes me with an iron
rod!
Oh, I am beaten!

MATHER.
This is wonderful!
I can see nothing! Is this appar-
ition
Visibly there, and yet we cannot see
it?
60

HATHORNE.

It is. The spectre is invisible
Unto our grosser senses, but she sees
it.

MARY.

Look! look! there is another clad in
gray!
She holds a spindle in her hand, and
threatens
To stab me with it! It is Goodwife
Corey!
Keep her away! Now she is coming
at me!
O mercy! mercy!

WALCOT (*thrusting with his sword*).

There is nothing there!

MATHER (*to HATHORNE*).

Do you see anything?

HATHORNE.

The laws that govern
The spiritual world prevent our see-
ing
Things palpable and visible to her. 70
These spectres are to us as if they
were not.

Mark her; she wakes.

TITUBA *touches her, and she awakes.*

MARY.

Who are these gentlemen?

WALCOT.

They are our friends. Dear Mary,
are you better?

MARY.

Weak, very weak.

*Taking a spindle from her lap, and
holding it up.*

How came this spindle here?

TITUBA.

You wrenched it from the hand of
Goodwife Corey
When she rushed at you.

HATHORNE.

Mark that, reverend sir!

MATHER.

It is most marvellous, most inexplica-
ble!

TITUBA (*picking up a bit of gray cloth
from the floor*).

And here, too, is a bit of her gray
dress,
That the sword cut away.

MATHER.

Beholding this,
It were indeed by far more credulous
To be incredulous than to believe. 8;
None but a Sadducee, who doubts of
all
Pertaining to the spiritual world,
Could doubt such manifest and dam-
ning proofs!

HATHORNE.

Are you convinced?

MATHER (*to MARY*).

Dear child, be comforted!
Only by prayer and fasting can you
drive
These Unclean Spirits from you. An
old man
Gives you his blessing. God be with
you, Mary!

ACT II

SCENE I. — GILES COREY'S farm.
*Morning. Enter COREY, with a
horseshoe and a hammer.*

COREY.

The Lord hath prospered me. The
rising sun
Shines on my Hundred Acres and my
woods
As if he loved them. On a morn like
this
I can forgive mine enemies, and thank
God
For all his goodness unto me and
mine.
My orchard groans with russets and
pearmains;
My ripening corn shines golden in the
sun;
My barns are crammed with hay, my
cattle thrive;
The birds sing blithely on the trees
around me!
And blither than the birds my heart
within me.

But Satan still goes up and down the
earth;
And to protect this house from his
assaults,
And keep the powers of darkness from
my door,
This horseshoe will I nail upon the
threshold.

Nails down the horseshoe.

There, ye night-hags and witches that
torment
The neighborhood, ye shall not enter
here! —

What is the matter in the field? —
John Gloyd!

The cattle are all running to the
woods! —

John Gloyd! Where is the man?

Enter JOHN GLOYD.

Look there!
What ails the cattle? Are they all
bewitched? 20

They run like mad.

GLOYD.

They have been overlooked.

COREY.

The Evil Eye is on them sure enough.
Call all the men. Be quick. Go after
them!

Exit GLOYD and enter MARTHA.

MARTHA.

What is amiss?

COREY.

The cattle are bewitched.
They are broken loose and making for
the woods.

MARTHA.

Why will you harbor such delusions,
Giles?

Bewitched? Well, then it was John
Gloyd bewitched them;

I saw him even now take down the bars
And turn them loose! They're only
frolicsome. 29

COREY.

The rascal!

MARTHA.

I was standing in the road.
Talking with Goodwife Proctor, and I
saw him.

COREY.

With Proctor's wife? And what says
Goodwife Proctor?

MARTHA.

Sad things indeed; the saddest you
can hear

Of Bridget Bishop. She's cried out
upon!

COREY.

Poor soul! I've known her forty year
or more:

She was the widow Wasselby; and
then

She married Oliver, and Bishop next.
She's had three husbands. I remem-
ber well

My games of shovel-board at Bishop's
tavern

In the old merry days, and she so
gay

With her red paragon bodice and her 40
ribbons!

Ah, Bridget Bishop always was a
Witch!

MARTHA.

They 'll little help her now, — her
caps and ribbons,

And her red paragon bodice, and her
plumes,

With which she flaunted in the Meet-
ing-house!

When next she goes there, it will be
for trial.

COREY.

When will that be?

MARTHA.

This very day at ten.

COREY.

Then get you ready. We will go and
see it.

Come; you shall ride behind me on
the pillion.

MARTHA.

Not I. You know I do not like such
things. 50

I wonder you should. I do not be-
lieve

In Witches nor in Witchcraft.

COREY.

Well, I do.

There's a strange fascination in it all,
That draws me on and on, I know not
why.

MARTHA.

What do we know of spirits good or
ill,
Or of their power to help us or to
harm us?

COREY.

Surely what's in the Bible must be
true.
Did not an Evil Spirit come on Saul?
Did not the Witch of Endor bring the
ghost
Of Samuel from his grave? The Bible
says so. 60

MARTHA.

That happened very long ago.

COREY.

With God

There is no long ago.

MARTHA.

There is with us.

COREY.

And Mary Magdalene had seven
devils,
And he who dwelt among the tombs
a legion!

MARTHA.

God's power is infinite. I do not doubt
it.

If in His providence He once per-
mitted

Such things to be among the Israel-
ites,

It does not follow He permits them
now,

And among us who are not Israelites.
But we will not dispute about it,
Giles. 70

Go to the village, if you think it best,
And leave me here; I'll go about my
work. [*Exit into the house.*

COREY.

And I will go and saddle the gray
mare.

The last word always. That is wo-
man's nature.

If an old man will marry a young
wife,

He must make up his mind to many
things.

It's putting new cloth into an old
garment,

When the strain comes, it is the old
gives way.

Goes to the door.

Oh Martha! I forgot to tell you
something.

I've had a letter from a friend of
mine, 80

A certain Richard Gardner of Nan-
tucket,

Master and owner of a whaling-
vessel;

He writes that he is coming down to
see us.

I hope you'll like him.

MARTHA.

I will do my best.

COREY.

That's a good woman. Now I will
be gone.

I've not seen Gardner for this twenty
year;

But there is something of the sea about
him, —

Something so open, generous, large,
and strong,

It makes me love him better than a
brother. [*Exit.*

MARTHA comes to the door.

MARTHA.

Oh these old friends and cronies of my
husband, 90

These captains from Nantucket and
the Cape,

That come and turn my house into a
tavern

With their carousing! Still, there's
something frank

In these seafaring men that makes me
like them.

Why, here's a horseshoe nailed upon
the doorstep!

Giles has done this to keep away the
Witches.

I hope this Richard Gardner will bring
with him

A gale of good sound common-sense
to blow

The fog of these delusions from his
brain! 99

COREY (*within*).
 Ho! Martha! Martha!
Enter COREY.
 Have you seen my saddle?
 MARTHA.
 I saw it yesterday.
 COREY.
 Where did you see it?
 MARTHA.
 On a gray mare, that somebody was
 riding
 Along the village road.
 COREY.
 Who was it? Tell me.
 MARTHA.
 Some one who should have stayed at
 home.
 COREY (*restraining himself*).
 I see!
 Don't vex me, Martha. Tell me where
 it is.

MARTHA.
 I've hidden it away.
 COREY.
 Go fetch it me.
 MARTHA.
 Go find it.
 COREY.
 No. I'll ride down to the village
 Bare-back; and when the people stare
 and say,
 "Giles Corey, where's your saddle?"
 I will answer,
 "A Witch has stolen it." How shall
 you like that?
 MARTHA.
 I shall not like it.
 COREY.
 Then go fetch the saddle.
 [*Exit MARTHA.*]
 If an old man will marry a young
 wife,
 Why then — why then — why then —
 he must spell Baker!

"Go to the village, if you think it best,
 And leave me here; I'll go about my work"

Enter MARTHA with the saddle, which she throws down.

MARTHA.

There! There's the saddle.

COREY.

Take it up.

MARTHA.

I won't!

COREY.

Then let it lie there. I'll ride to the village,
And say you are a Witch.

MARTHA.

No, not that, Giles.

She takes up the saddle.

COREY.

Now come with me, and saddle the gray mare
With your own hands; and you shall see me ride
Along the village road as is becoming
Giles Corey of the Salem Farms, your husband!

120

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II. — *The Green in front of the Meeting-house in Salem village. People coming and going. Enter GILES COREY.*

COREY.

A melancholy end! Who would have thought
That Bridget Bishop e'er would come to this?
Accused, convicted, and condemned to death
For Witchcraft! And so good a woman too!

A FARMER.

Good morrow, neighbor Corey.

COREY (*not hearing him*).

Who is safe?
How do I know but under my own roof
I too may harbor Witches, and some Devil
Be plotting and contriving against me?

FARMER.

He does not hear. Good morrow, neighbor Corey!

COREY.

Good morrow.

FARMER.

Have you seen John Proctor lately?

COREY.

No, I have not.

FARMER.

Then do not see him, Corey.

COREY.

Why should I not?

FARMER.

Because he's angry with you.
So keep out of his way. Avoid a quarrel.

COREY.

Why does he seek to fix a quarrel on me?

FARMER.

He says you burned his house.

COREY.

I burn his house?
If he says that, John Proctor is a liar!
The night his house was burned I was in bed,
And I can prove it! Why, we are old friends!
He could not say that of me.

FARMER.

He did say it.
I heard him say it.

COREY.

Then he shall unsay it. 20

FARMER.

He said you did it out of spite to him
For taking part against you in the quarrel
You had with your John Gloyd about his wages.
He says you murdered Goodell; that you trampled

Upon his body till he breathed no
more.
And so beware of him ; that's my ad-
vice ! *[Exit.]*

COREY.
By Heaven ! this is too much ! I'll
seek him out.
And make him eat his words, or stran-
gle him.
I'll not be slandered at a time like this,
When every word is made an accusa-
tion, ³⁰
When every whisper kills, and every
man
Walks with a halter round his neck !
Enter GLOYD in haste.

What now ?
GLOYD.
I came to look for you. The cattle —

COREY.
Well,
What of them ? Have you found
them ?

GLOYD.
They are dead.
I followed them through the woods,
across the meadows ;
Then they all leaped into the Ipswich
River,
And swam across, but could not climb
the bank,
And so were drowned.

COREY.
You are to blame for this ;
For you took down the bars, and let
them loose.

GLOYD.
That I deny. They broke the fences
down. ⁴⁰
You know they were bewitched.

COREY,
Ah, my poor cattle !
The Evil Eye was on them ; that is
true.
Day of disaster ! Most unlucky day !
Why did I leave my ploughing and
my reaping
To plough and reap this Sodom and
Gomorrah ?
Oh, I could drown myself for sheer
vexation ! *[Exit.]*

GLOYD.
He's going for his cattle. He won't
find them.
By this time they have drifted out to
sea.
They will not break his fences any
more,
Though they may break his heart.
And what care I ? ⁵⁰
[Exit.]

SCENE III. — COREY's kitchen. A table
with supper. MARTHA knitting.

MARTHA.
He's come at last. I hear him in the
passage.
Something has gone amiss with him
to-day ;
I know it by his step, and by the
sound
The door made as he shut it. He is
angry.
*Enter COREY with his riding-whip. As
he speaks he takes off his hat and
gloves, and throws them down vio-
lently.*

COREY.
I say if Satan ever entered man
He's in John Proctor !

MARTHA.
Giles, what is the matter ?
You frighten me.

COREY.
I say if any man
Can have a Devil in him, then that
man
Is Proctor, — is John Proctor, and no
other ! ⁹

MARTHA.
Why, what has he been doing ?

COREY.
Everything !
What do you think I heard there in
the village ?

MARTHA.
I'm sure I cannot guess. What did
you hear ?

COREY.
He says I burned his house !

MARTHA.

Does he say that?

COREY.

He says I burned his house. I was in
bed
And fast asleep that night; and I can
prove it.

MARTHA.

If he says that, I think the Father of
Lies
Is surely in the man.

COREY.

He does say that,
And that I did it to wreak vengeance
on him
For taking sides against me in the
quarrel
I had with that John Gloyd about his
wages.
And God knows that I never bore him²⁰
malice
For that, as I have told him twenty
times!

MARTHA.

It is John Gloyd has stirred him up to
this.
I do not like that Gloyd. I think
him crafty,
Not to be trusted, sullen, and untruth-
ful.
Come, have your supper. You are
tired and hungry.

COREY.

I'm angry, and not hungry.

MARTHA.

Do eat something.
You'll be the better for it.

COREY (*sitting down*).

I'm not hungry.

MARTHA.

Let not the sun go down upon your
wrath.

COREY.

It has gone down upon it, and will
rise
To-morrow, and go down again upon³⁰
it.

They have trumped up against me
the old story
Of causing Goodell's death by tram-
pling on him.

MARTHA.

Oh, that is false. I know it to be
false.

COREY.

He has been dead these fourteen years
or more.
Why can't they let him rest? Why
must they drag him
Out of his grave to give me a bad
name?
I did not kill him. In his bed he
died,
As most men die, because his hour
had come.
I have wronged no man. Why should
Proctor say
Such things about me? I will not⁴⁰
forgive him
Till he confesses he has slandered me.
Then, I've more trouble. All my
cattle gone.

MARTHA.

They will come back again.

COREY.

Not in this world.
Did I not tell you they were over-
looked?
They ran down through the woods,
into the meadows,
And tried to swim the river, and were
drowned.
It is a heavy loss.

MARTHA.

I'm sorry for it.

COREY.

All my dear oxen dead. I loved them,
Martha,
Next to yourself. I liked to look at
them,⁵⁰
And watch the breath come out of
their wide nostrils,
And see their patient eyes. Somehow
I thought
It gave me strength only to look at
them.
And how they strained their necks
against the yoke

"Let not the sun go down upon your wrath"

If I but spoke, or touched them with
the goad!
They were my friends; and when
Gloyd came and told me
They were all drowned, I could have
drowned myself
From sheer vexation; and I said as
much
To Gloyd and others.

MARTHA.

Do not trust John Gloyd
With anything you would not have
repeated. 60

COREY.

As I came through the woods this
afternoon,
Impatient at my loss, and much per-
plexed
With all that I had heard there in the
village,
The yellow leaves lit up the trees
about me
Like an enchanted palace, and I
wished
I knew enough of magic or of Witch-
craft

To change them into gold. Then sud-
denly
A tree shook down some crimson
leaves upon me,
Like drops of blood, and in the path
before me
Stood Tituba the Indian, the old
crone. 70

MARTHA.

Were you not frightened?

COREY.

No, I do not think
I know the meaning of that word.
Why frightened?
I am not one of those who think the
Lord
Is waiting till He catches them some
day
In the back yard alone! What should
I fear?
She started from the bushes by the
path,
And had a basket full of herbs and
roots
For some witch-broth or other, — the
old hag!

MARTHA.

She has been here to-day.

COREY.

With hand outstretched
She said: "Giles Corey, will you sign
the Book?" ⁸⁰

"Avaunt!" I cried: "Get thee be-
hind me, Satan!"

At which she laughed and left me.
But a voice

Was whispering in my ear continu-
ally:

"Self-murder is no crime. The life
of man

's his, to keep it or to throw away!"

MARTHA.

'T was a temptation of the Evil One!
Giles, Giles! why will you harbor
these dark thoughts?

COREY (*rising*).

I am too tired to talk. I'll go to
bed.

MARTHA.

First tell me something about Bridget
Bishop.

How did she look? You saw her?
You were there? ⁹⁰

COREY.

I'll tell you that to-morrow, not to-
night.

I'll go to bed.

MARTHA.

First let us pray together.

COREY.

I cannot pray to-night.

MARTHA.

Say the Lord's Prayer,
And that will comfort you.

COREY.

I cannot say,
"As we forgive those that have sinned
against us,"

When I do not forgive them.

MARTHA (*kneeling on the hearth*).

God forgive you!

COREY.

I will not make believe! I say, to-
night

There's something thwarts me when
I wish to pray,

And thrusts into my mind, instead of
prayers,

Hate and revenge, and things that are
not prayers.

Something of my old self, — my old,
bad life, — ¹⁰⁰

And the old Adam in me, rises up

And will not let me pray. I am
afraid

The Devil hinders me. You know I
say

Just what I think, and nothing more
nor less,

And, when I pray, my heart is in my
prayer.

I cannot say one thing and mean an-
other.

If I can't pray, I will not make be-
lieve!

[*Exit* COREY. MARTHA *continues kneel-
ing*.

ACT III

SCENE I. — GILES COREY'S *kitchen*.
Morning. COREY and MARTHA *sit-
ting at the breakfast-table*.

COREY (*rising*).

Well, now I've told you all I saw and
heard

Of Bridget Bishop; and I must be
gone.

MARTHA.

Don't go into the village, Giles, to-
day.

Last night you came back tired and
out of humor.

COREY.

Say, angry; say, right angry. I was
never

In a more devilish temper in my life.
All things went wrong with me.

MARTHA.

You were much vexed;

So don't go to the village.

COREY (*going*).

No, I won't.
I won't go near it. We are going to
mow
The Ipswich meadows for the after-
math,
The crop of sedge and rowens. 10

MARTHA.

Stay a moment.
I want to tell you what I dreamed
last night.
Do you believe in dreams?

COREY.

Why, yes and no.
When they come true, then I believe
in them;
When they come false, I don't believe
in them.
But let me hear. What did you
dream about?

That we were taken before the Magis-
trates,
And tried for Witchcraft, and con-
demned to death! 20
I wished to pray; they would not let
me pray;
You tried to comfort me, and they
forbade it.
But the most dreadful thing in all my
dream
Was that they made you testify
against me!
And then there came a kind of mist
between us;
I could not see you; and I woke in
terror.
I never was more thankful in my
life
Than when I found you sleeping at
my side!

"May not the Devil take the outward shape
Of innocent persons?"

CORREY (*with tenderness*).

It was our talk last night that made
you dream.
I'm sorry for it. I'll control myself ³⁰
Another time, and keep my temper
down!
I do not like such dreams. — Remem-
ber, Martha,
I'm going to mow the Ipswich River
meadows;
If Gardner comes, you'll tell him
where to find me. [*Exit.*]

MARTHA.

So this delusion grows from bad to
worse.
First, a forsaken and forlorn old wo-
man,
Ragged and wretched, and without a
friend;
Then something higher. Now it's
Bridget Bishop;
God only knows whose turn it will be
next!
The Magistrates are blind, the people
mad! ⁴⁰
If they would only seize the Afflicted
Children,
And put them in the Workhouse,
where they should be,
There'd be an end of all this wicked-
ness. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II. — *A street in Salem Village.*
Enter MATHER and HATHORNE.

MATHER.

Yet one thing troubles me.

HATHORNE.

And what is that?

MATHER.

May not the Devil take the outward
shape
Of innocent persons? Are we not in
danger,
Perhaps, of punishing some who are
not guilty?

HATHORNE.

As I have said, we do not trust alone
To spectral evidence.

MATHER.

And then again,

If any shall be put to death for Witch-
craft,
We do but kill the body, not the soul.
The Unclean Spirits that possessed
them once ⁹
Live still, to enter into other bodies.
What have we gained? Surely,
there's nothing gained.

HATHORNE.

Doth not the Scripture say, "Thou
shalt not suffer
A Witch to live?"

MATHER.

The Scripture sayeth it,
But speaketh to the Jews; and we are
Christians.
What say the laws of England?

HATHORNE.

They make Witchcraft
Felony without the benefit of Clergy.
Witches are burned in England. You
have read —
For you read all things, not a book es-
capes you —
The famous Demonology of King
James?

MATHER.

A curious volume. I remember also ²⁰
The plot of the Two Hundred, with
one Fian,
The Registrar of the Devil, at their
head.
To drown his Majesty on his return
From Denmark; how they sailed in
sieves or riddles
Unto North Berwick Kirk in Lothian,
And, landing there, danced hand in
hand, and sang,
"Goodwife, go ye before! goodwife,
go ye!
If ye'll not go before, goodwife, let
me!"
While Geilis Duncan played the
Witches' Reel ²⁹
Upon a jews-harp.

HATHORNE.

Then you know full well
The English law, and that in England
Witches,
When lawfully convicted and at-
tainted,
Are put to death.

MATHER.

When lawfully convicted;
That is the point.

HATHORNE.

You heard the evidence
Produced before us yesterday at the
trial
Of Bridget Bishop.

MATHER.

One of the Afflicted,
I know, bore witness to the apparition
Of ghosts unto the spectre of this
Bishop.
Saying, "You murdered us!" of the
truth whereof
There was in matter of fact too much
suspicion. 40

HATHORNE.

And when she cast her eyes on the
Afflicted,
They were struck down; and this in
such a manner
There could be no collusion in the
business.
And when the accused but laid her
hand upon them,
As they lay in their swoons, they
straight revived,
Although they stirred not when the
others touched them.

MATHER.

What most convinced me of the woman's guilt
Was finding hidden in her cellar wall
Those poppets made of rags, with
headless pins
Stuck into them point outwards, and
whereof 50
She could not give a reasonable account.

HATHORNE.

When you shall read the testimony
given
Before the Court in all the other
cases,
I am persuaded you will find the
proof
No less conclusive than it was in this.
Come, then, with me, and I will tax
your patience

With reading of the documents so far
As may convince you that these sorcerers

Are lawfully convicted and attainted.
Like doubting Thomas, you shall lay
your hand 60

Upon these wounds, and you will
doubt no more. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III. — *A room in COREY'S house. MARTHA and two Deacons of the church.*

MARTHA.

Be seated. I am glad to see you here.
I know what you are come for. You
are come
To question me, and learn from my
own lips
If I have any dealings with the Devil;
In short, if I'm a Witch.

DEACON (*sitting down*).

Such is our purpose.
How could you know beforehand
why we came?

MARTHA.

'T was only a surmise.

DEACON.

We came to ask you,
You being with us in church covenant,
What part you have, if any, in these
matters.

MARTHA.

And I make answer, No part whatsoever. 10
I am a farmer's wife, a working woman;
You see my spinning-wheel, you see
my loom,
You know the duties of a farmer's
wife,
And are not ignorant that my life
among you
Has been without reproach until this
day.
Is it not true?

DEACON.

So much we're bound to own;
And say it frankly, and without reserve.

MARTHA.

I've heard the idle tales that are
abroad;
I've heard it whispered that I am a
Witch;
I cannot help it. I do not believe ²⁰
In any Witchcraft. It is a delusion.

DEACON.

How can you say that it is a delusion,
When all our learned and good men
believe it? —
Our Ministers and worshipful Magis-
trates?

MARTHA.

Their eyes are blinded, and see not
the truth.
Perhaps one day they will be open to
it.

DEACON.

You answer boldly. The Afflicted
Children
Say you appeared to them.

MARTHA.

And did they say
What clothes I came in?

DEACON.

No, they could not tell.
They said that you foresaw our visit
here, ³⁰
And blinded them, so that they could
not see
The clothes you wore.

MARTHA.

The cunning, crafty girls!
I say to you, in all sincerity,
I never have appeared to any one
In my own person. If the Devil takes
My shape to hurt these children, or
afflict them,
I am not guilty of it. And I say
It's all a mere delusion of the senses.

DEACON.

I greatly fear that you will find too
late ³⁹
It is not so.

MARTHA (*rising*).

They do accuse me falsely.
It is delusion, or it is deceit.

There is a story in the ancient Scrip-
tures
Which much I wonder comes not to
your minds.
Let me repeat it to you.

DEACON.

We will hear it.

MARTHA.

It came to pass that Naboth had a
vineyard
Hard by the palace of the King called
Ahab.
And Ahab, King of Israel, spake to
Naboth,
And said to him, Give unto me thy
vineyard,
That I may have it for a garden of
herbs,
And I will give a better vineyard for
it, ⁵⁰
Or, if it seemeth good to thee, its
worth
In money. And then Naboth said to
Ahab,
The Lord forbid it me that I should
give
The inheritance of my fathers unto
thee.
And Ahab came into his house dis-
pleased
And heavy at the words which Na-
both spake,
And laid him down upon his bed, and
turned
His face away; and he would eat no
bread.
And Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, came
And said to him, Why is thy spirit
sad? ⁶⁰
And he said unto her, Because I spake
To Naboth, to the Jezreelite, and
said,
Give me thy vineyard; and he an-
swered, saying,
I will not give my vineyard unto thee.
And Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, said,
Dost thou not rule the realm of Is-
rael?
Arise, eat bread, and let thy heart be
merry;
I will give Naboth's vineyard unto
thee.
So she wrote letters in King Ahab's
name,

And sealed them with his seal, and
sent the letters 70

Unto the elders that were in his city
Dwelling with Naboth, and unto the
nobles ;

And in the letters wrote, Proclaim a
fast ;

And set this Naboth high among the
people,

And set two men, the sons of Belial,
Before him, to bear witness and to say,
Thou didst blaspheme against God
and the King ;

And carry him out and stone him,
that he die !

And the elders and the nobles in the
city 79

Did even as Jezebel, the wife of Ahab,
Had sent to them and written in the
letters.

And then it came to pass, when Ahab
heard

Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose to go
Down unto Naboth's vineyard, and to
take

Possession of it. And the word of
God

Came to Elijah, saying to him, Arise,
Go down to meet the King of Israel
In Naboth's vineyard, whither he hath
gone

To take possession. Thou shalt speak
to him,

Saying, Thus saith the Lord ! What !
hast thou killed 90

And also taken possession ? In the
place

Wherein the dogs have licked the
blood of Naboth

Shall the dogs lick thy blood, — ay,
even thine !

*Both of the Deacons start from their
seats.*

And Ahab then, the King of Israel,
Said, Hast thou found me, O mine
enemy ?

Elijah the Prophet answered, I have
found thee !

So will it be with those who have
stirred up

The Sons of Belial here to bear false
witness

And swear away the lives of innocent
people ; 99

Their enemy will find them out at last,
The Prophet's voice will thunder, I
have found thee ! *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE IV. — *Meadows on Ipswich
River. COREY and his men mowing ;
COREY in advance.*

COREY.

Well done, my men. You see, I lead
the field !

I'm an old man, but I can swing a
scythe

Better than most of you, though you
be younger.

Hangs his scythe upon a tree.

GLOYD (*aside to the others*).

How strong he is ! It's supernatural.
No man so old as he is has such
strength.

The Devil helps him !

COREY (*wiping his forehead*).

Now we'll rest awhile,
And take our noonning. What's the
matter with you ?

You are not angry with me, — are
you, Gloyd ?

Come, come, we will not quarrel.
Let's be friends. 9

It's an old story, that the Raven said,
"Read the Third of Colossians and
fifteenth."

GLOYD.

You're handier at the scythe, but I
can beat you

At wrestling.

COREY.

Well, perhaps so. I don't know.
I never wrestled with you. Why,
you're vexed !

Come, come, don't bear a grudge.

GLOYD.

You are afraid.

COREY.

What should I be afraid of ? All
bear witness

The challenge comes from him. Now,
then, my man.

They wrestle, and GLOYD is thrown.

Corey and Gloyd wrestling

ONE OF THE MEN.
That's a fair fall.

ANOTHER.
'T was nothing but a foil!

OTHERS.
You've hurt him!

COREY (*helping GLOYD rise*).
No; this meadow-land is soft.
You're not hurt, — are you, Gloyd?

GLOYD (*rising*).
No, not much hurt.

COREY.
Well, then, shake hands; and there's
an end of it.
How do you like that Cornish hug, my
lad?
And now we'll see what's in our
basket here.

GLOYD (*aside*).
The Devil and all his imps are in that
man!
The clutch of his ten fingers burns
like fire!

COREY (*reverentially taking off his hat*).
God bless the food He hath provided
for us,
And make us thankful for it, for
Christ's sake!
*He lifts up a keg of cider, and drinks
from it.*

GLOYD.
Do you see that? Don't tell me it's
not Witchcraft.
Two of us could not lift that cask as
he does!
COREY *puts down the keg, and opens a
basket. A voice is heard calling.*

VOICE.
Ho! Corey, Corey!

COREY.
What is that? I surely
Heard some one calling me by name!

VOICE.
Giles Corey!
*Enter a boy, running, and out of
breath.*

BOY.

Is Master Corey here?

COREY.

Yes, here I am.

BOY.

O Master Corey!

COREY.

Well?

BOY.

Your wife — your wife —

COREY.

What's happened to my wife?

BOY.

She's sent to prison!

COREY.

The dream! the dream! O God, be merciful!

BOY.

She sent me here to tell you.

COREY (*putting on his jacket*).

Where's my horse?

Don't stand there staring, fellows.

Where's my horse?

[*Exit* COREY.]

GLOYD.

Under the trees there. Run, old man, run, run!

You've got some one to wrestle with you now

Who'll trip your heels up, with your Cornish hug.

If there's a Devil, he has got you now.

Ah, there he goes! His horse is snorting fire!

ONE OF THE MEN.

John Gloyd, don't talk so! It's a shame to talk so!

He's a good master, though you quarrel with him.

GLOYD.

If hard work and low wages make good masters,

Then he is one. But I think otherwise.

Come, let us have our dinner and be merry,
And talk about the old man and the Witches.

I know some stories that will make you laugh.

They sit down on the grass, and eat.

Now there are Goody Cloyse and Goody Good,

Who have not got a decent tooth between them,

And yet these children — the Afflicted Children —

Say that they bite them, and show marks of teeth

Upon their arms!

ONE OF THE MEN.

That makes the wonder greater.
That's Witchcraft. Why, if they had teeth like yours,
'T would be no wonder if the girls were bitten!

GLOYD.

And then those ghosts that come out of their graves

And cry, "You murdered us! you murdered us!"

ONE OF THE MEN.

And all those Apparitions that stick pins

Into the flesh of the Afflicted Children!

GLOYD.

Oh those Afflicted Children! They know well

Where the pins come from. I can tell you that.

And there's old Corey, he has got a horseshoe

Nailed on his doorstep to keep off the Witches,

And all the same his wife has gone to prison.

ONE OF THE MEN.

Oh, she's no Witch. I'll swear that Goodwife Corey

Never did harm to any living creature.

She's a good woman, if there ever was one.

GLOYD.

Well, we shall see. As for that
 Bridget Bishop,
 She has been tried before; some years
 ago⁷⁰
 A negro testified he saw her shape
 Sitting upon the rafters in a barn,
 And holding in its hand an egg; and
 while
 He went to fetch his pitchfork, she
 had vanished.
 And now be quiet, will you? I am
 tired,
 And want to sleep here on the grass a
 little.

They stretch themselves on the grass.

ONE OF THE MEN.

There may be Witches riding through
 the air
 Over our heads on broomsticks at this
 moment,
 Bound for some Satan's Sabbath in the
 woods⁷⁹
 To be baptized.

GLOYD.

I wish they'd take you with them,
 And hold you under water, head and
 ears,
 Till you were drowned; and that
 would stop your talking,
 If nothing else will. Let me sleep, I
 say.

ACT IV

SCENE I. — *The green in front of the
 village Meeting-house. An excited
 crowd gathering. Enter JOHN GLOYD.*

A FARMER.

Who will be tried to-day?

A SECOND.

I do not know.
 Here is John Gloyd. Ask him; he
 knows.

FARMER.

John Gloyd,
 Whose turn is it to-day?

GLOYD.

It's Goodwife Corey's.

FARMER.

Giles Corey's wife?

GLOYD.

The same. She is not mine.
 It will go hard with her, with all her
 praying.
 The hypocrite! She's always on her
 knees;
 But she prays to the Devil when she
 prays.
 Let us go in.

A trumpet blows.

FARMER.

Here come the Magistrates.

SECOND FARMER.

Who's the tall man in front?

GLOYD.

Oh, that is Hathorne,
 A Justice of the Court, and Quarter-
 master¹⁰
 In the Three County Troop. He'll
 sift the matter.
 That's Corwin with him; and the man
 in black
 Is Cotton Mather, Minister of Boston.

*Enter HATHORNE and other Magistrates
 on horseback, followed by the Sheriff,
 constables, and attendants on foot.
 The Magistrates dismount, and enter
 the Meeting-house, with the rest.*

FARMER.

The Meeting-house is full. I never
 saw
 So great a crowd before.

GLOYD.

No matter. Come.
 We shall find room enough by elbow-
 ing
 Our way among them. Put your
 shoulder to it.

FARMER.

There were not half so many at the
 trial
 Of Goodwife Bishop.

GLOYD.

Keep close after me.
 I'll find a place for you. They'll
 want me there.²⁰
 I am a friend of Corey's, as you know,
 And he can't do without me just at
 present. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. — *Interior of the Meeting-house. MATHER and the Magistrates seated in front of the pulpit. Before them a raised platform. MARTHA in chains. COREY near her. MARY WALCOT in a chair. A crowd of spectators, among them GLOYD. Confusion and murmurs during the scene.*

HATHORNE.

Call Martha Corey.

MARTHA.

I am here.

HATHORNE.

Come forward.

She ascends the platform.

The Jurors of our Sovereign Lord and Lady

The King and Queen, here present, do accuse you

Of having on the tenth of June last past,

And divers other times before and after,

Wickedly used and practised certain arts

Called Witchcrafts, Sorceries, and Incantations,

Against one Mary Walcot, single woman,

Of Salem Village; by which wicked arts

The aforesaid Mary Walcot was tormented,

Tortured, afflicted, pined, consumed, and wasted,

Against the peace of our Sovereign Lord and Lady

The King and Queen, as well as of the Statute

Made and provided in that case. What say you?

MARTHA.

Before I answer, give me leave to pray.

"Ah me! ah me!
Oh, give me leave to pray!"

HATHORNE.

We have not sent for you, nor are we
here,
To hear you pray, but to examine you
In whatsoever is alleged against you.
Why do you hurt this person?

MARTHA.

I do not.
I am not guilty of the charge against
me. 20

MARY.

Avoid, she-devil! You may torment
me now!
Avoid, avoid, Witch!

MARTHA.

I am innocent.
I never had to do with any Witch-
craft
Since I was born. I am a gospel wo-
man.

MARY.

You are a gospel Witch!

MARTHA (*clasping her hands*).

Ah me! ah me!
Oh, give me leave to pray!

MARY (*stretching out her hands*).

She hurts me now.
See, she has pinched my hands!

HATHORNE.

Who made these marks
Upon her hands?

MARTHA.

I do not know. I stand
Apart from her. I did not touch her
hands. 29

HATHORNE.

Who hurt her then?

MARTHA.

I know not.

HATHORNE.

Do you think
She is bewitched?

MARTHA.

Indeed I do not think so.
I am no Witch, and have no faith in
Witches.

HATHORNE.

Then answer me: When certain per-
sons came
To see you yesterday, how did you
know
Beforehand why they came?

MARTHA.

I had had speech;
The children said I hurt them, and I
thought
These people came to question me
about it.

HATHORNE.

How did you know the children had
been told
To note the clothes you wore?

MARTHA.

My husband told me
What others said about it.

HATHORNE.

Goodman Corey,
Say, did you tell her?

COREY.

I must speak the truth;
I did not tell her. It was some one
else. 42

HATHORNE.

Did you not say your husband told
you so?
How dare you tell a lie in this as-
sembly?
Who told you of the clothes? Con-
fess the truth.

MARTHA *bites her lips, and is silent.*
You bite your lips, but do not answer
me!

MARY.

Ah, she is biting me! Avoid, avoid!

HATHORNE.

You said your husband told you.

MARTHA.

Yes, he told me
The children said I troubled them.

HATHORNE.

Then tell me
Why do you trouble them?

MARTHA.

I have denied it.

MARY.

She threatened me; stabbed at me
with her spindle;
And, when my brother thrust her with⁵¹
his sword,
He tore her gown, and cut a piece
away.
Here are they both, the spindle and
the cloth.

Shows them.

HATHORNE.

And there are persons here who know
the truth
Of what has now been said. What
answer make you?

MARTHA.

I make no answer. Give me leave to
pray.

HATHORNE.

Whom would you pray to?

MARTHA.

To my God and Father.

HATHORNE.

Who is your God and Father?

MARTHA.

The Almighty!

HATHORNE.

Doth he you pray to say that he is
God?
It is the Prince of Darkness, and not⁶⁰
God.

MARY.

There is a dark shape whispering in
her ear.

HATHORNE.

What does it say to you?

MARTHA.

I see no shape.

HATHORNE.

Did you not hear it whisper?

MARTHA.

I heard nothing,

MARY.

What torture! Ah, what agony I suf-
fer!

Falls into a swoon.

HATHORNE.

You see this woman cannot stand be-
fore you.
If you would look for mercy, you
must look
In God's way, by confession of your
guilt.
Why does your spectre haunt and
hurt this person?

MARTHA.

I do not know. He who appeared of
old
In Samuel's shape, a saint and glori-⁷⁰
fied,
May come in whatsoever shape he
chooses.
I cannot help it. I am sick at heart!

COREY.

O Martha, Martha! let me hold your
hand.

HATHORNE.

No; stand aside, old man.

MARY (*starting up*).

Look there! Look there!
I see a little bird, a yellow bird,
Perched on her finger; and it pecks
at me.
Ah, it will tear mine eyes out!

MARTHA.

I see nothing.

HATHORNE.

'T is the Familiar Spirit that attends
her.

MARY.

Now it has flown away. It sits up
there
Upon the rafters. It is gone; is van-⁸⁰
ished.

MARTHA.

Giles, wipe these tears of anger from
mine eyes.
Wipe the sweat from my forehead. I
am faint.

She leans against the railing.

MARY.

Oh, she is crushing me with all her weight!

HATHORNE.

Did you not carry once the Devil's Book
To this young woman?

MARTHA.

Never.

HATHORNE.

Have you signed it,
Or touched it?

MARTHA.

No; I never saw it.

HATHORNE.

Did you not scourge her with an iron rod?

MARTHA.

No, I did not. If any Evil Spirit
Has taken my shape to do these evil
deeds,
I cannot help it. I am innocent. 90

HATHORNE.

Did you not say the Magistrates were
blind?
That you would open their eyes?

MARTHA (*with a scornful laugh*).

Yes, I said that;
If you call me a sorceress, you are
blind!
If you accuse the innocent, you are
blind!
Can the innocent be guilty?

HATHORNE.

Did you not
On one occasion hide your husband's
saddle
To hinder him from coming to the
Sessions?

MARTHA.

I thought it was a folly in a farmer
To waste his time pursuing such il-
lusions. 100

HATHORNE.

What was the bird that this young wo-
man saw
Just now upon your hand?

MARTHA.

I know no bird.

HATHORNE.

Have you not dealt with a Familiar
Spirit?

MARTHA.

No, never, never!

HATHORNE.

What then was the Book
You showed to this young woman,
and besought her
To write in it?

MARTHA.

Where should I have a book?
I showed her none, nor have none.

MARY.

The next Sabbath
Is the Communion Day, but Martha
Corey
Will not be there!

MARTHA.

Ah, you are all against me.
What can I do or say?

HATHORNE.

You can confess.

MARTHA.

No, I cannot, for I am innocent. 111

HATHORNE.

We have the proof of many witnesses
That you are guilty.

MARTHA.

Give me leave to speak.
Will you condemn me on such evi-
dence, —
You who have known me for so many
years?
Will you condemn me in this house of
God,
Where I so long have worshipped
with you all?
Where I have eaten the bread and
drunk the wine
So many times at our Lord's Table
with you?
Bear witness, you that hear me; you
all know 120

That I have led a blameless life among
you,
That never any whisper of suspicion
Was breathed against me till this ac-
cusation.
And shall this count for nothing?
Will you take
My life away from me, because this
girl.
Who is distraught, and not in her
right mind,
Accuses me of things I blush to name?

HATHORNE.

What! is it not enough? Would you
hear more?
Giles Corey!

COREY.

I am here.

HATHORNE.

Come forward, then.

COREY *ascends the platform.*

Is it not true, that on a certain night
You were impeded strangely in your
prayers?
That something hindered you? and¹³¹
that you left
This woman here, your wife, kneeling
alone
Upon the hearth?

COREY.

Yes; I cannot deny it.

HATHORNE.

Did you not say the Devil hindered
you?

COREY.

I think I said some words to that
effect.

HATHORNE.

Is it not true, that fourteen head of
cattle,
To you belonging, broke from their
enclosure
And leaped into the river, and were
drowned?¹³⁹

COREY.

It is most true.

HATHORNE.

And did you not then say
That they were overlooked?

COREY.

So much I said.
I see; they're drawing round me
closer, closer,
A net I cannot break, cannot escape
from! [*Aside.*]

HATHORNE.

Who did these things?

COREY.

I do not know who did them.

HATHORNE.

Then I will tell you. It is some one
near you;
You see her now; this woman, your
own wife.

COREY.

I call the heavens to witness, it is
false!
She never harmed me, never hindered
me
In anything but what I should not do.
And I bear witness in the sight of
heaven,¹⁵⁰
And in God's house here, that I never
knew her
As otherwise than patient, brave, and
true,
Faithful, forgiving, full of charity,
A virtuous and industrious and good
wife!

HATHORNE.

Tut, tut, man; do not rant so in your
speech;
You are a witness, not an advocate!
Here, Sheriff, take this woman back
to prison.

MARTHA.

O Giles, this day you've sworn away
my life!

MARY.

Go, go and join the Witches at the
door.
Do you not hear the drum? Do you
not see them?¹⁶⁰
Go quick. They're waiting for you.
You are late.

[*Exit MARTHA; COREY following.*]

COREY.

The dream! the dream! the dream!

HATHORNE.

What does he say?
Giles Corey, go not hence. You are
yourself
Accused of Witchcraft and of Sorcery
By many witnesses. Say, are you
guilty?

COREY.

I know my death is foreordained by
you, —
Mine and my wife's. Therefore I will
not answer.
*During the rest of the scene he remains
silent.*

HATHORNE.

Do you refuse to plead? — 'T were
better for you
To make confession, or to plead Not
Guilty. —
Do you not hear me? — Answer, are
you guilty? ¹⁷⁰
Do you not know a heavier doom
awaits you,
If you refuse to plead, than if found
guilty?
Where is John Gloyd?

GLOYD (*coming forward*).

Here am I.

HATHORNE.

Tell the Court:
Have you not seen the supernatural
power
Of this old man? Have you not seen
him do
Strange feats of strength?

GLOYD.

I've seen him lead the field,
On a hot day, in mowing, and against
Us younger men; and I have wrestled
with him.
He threw me like a feather. I have
seen him .
Lift up a barrel with his single hands,
Which two strong men could hardly
lift together, ¹⁸¹
And, holding it above his head, drink
from it.

HATHORNE.

That is enough; we need not question
further.

What answer do you make to this,
Giles Corey?

MARY.

See there! See there!

HATHORNE. .

What is it? I see nothing.

MARY.

Look! Look! It is the ghost of
Robert Goodell,
Whom fifteen years ago this man did
murder
By stamping on his body! In his
shroud
He comes here to bear witness to the
crime!
*The crowd shrinks back from COREY
in horror.*

HATHORNE.

Ghosts of the dead and voices of the
living ¹⁹⁰
Bear witness to your guilt, and you
must die!
It might have been an easier death.
Your doom
Will be on your own head, and not on
ours.
Twice more will you be questioned of
these things;
Twice more have room to plead or to
confess.
If you are contumacious to the Court,
And if, when questioned, you refuse to
answer,
Then by the Statute you will be con-
demned
To the *peine forte et dure*! To have
your body
Pressed by great weights until you
shall be dead! ²⁰⁰
And may the Lord have mercy on
your soul!

ACT V

SCENE I. — COREY'S farm as in Act II.,
*Scene I. Enter RICHARD GARDNER,
looking round him.*

GARDNER.

Here stands the house as I remember
it,
The four tall poplar-trees before the
door;

"Look! Look! It is the ghost of Robert Goodell"

The house, the barn, the orchard, and
the well,
With its moss-covered bucket and its
trough;
The garden, with its hedge of currant-
bushes;
The woods, the harvest-fields; and,
far beyond,
The pleasant landscape stretching to
the sea.
But everything is silent and deserted!
No bleat of flocks, no bellowing of
herds,
No sound of flails, that should be
beating now;
Nor man nor beast astir. What can
this mean?

Knocks at the door.

What ho! Giles Corey! Hillo-ho!
Giles Corey!—
No answer but the echo from the
barn,
And the ill-omened cawing of the crow,

That yonder wings his flight across
the fields,
As if he scented carrion in the air.

Enter TITUBA with a basket.

What woman 's this, that, like an ap-
parition,
Haunts this deserted homestead in
broad day?
Woman, who are you?

TITUBA.

I'm Tituba.
I am John Indian's wife. I am a
Witch.

GARDNER.

What are you doing here?

TITUBA.

I am gathering herbs, —
Cinquefoil, and saxifrage, and penny-
royal.

COREY.

Do not speak of that.
It is too late. I am resolved to die.

GARDNER.

Why would you die who have so much to live for? —
Your daughters, and —

COREY.

You cannot say the word.
My daughters have gone from me.
They are married; ⁴⁰
They have their homes, their thoughts,
apart from me;
I will not say their hearts, — that
were too cruel.
What would you have me do?

GARDNER.

Confess and live.

COREY.

That's what they said who came here
yesterday
To lay a heavy weight upon my con-
science
By telling me that I was driven forth
As an unworthy member of their
church.

GARDNER.

It is an awful death.

COREY.

'T is but to drown,
And have the weight of all the seas
upon you.

GARDNER.

Say something; say enough to fend
off death ⁵⁰
Till this tornado of fanaticism
Blows itself out. Let me come in be-
tween you
And your severer self, with my plain
sense;
Do not be obstinate.

COREY.

I will not plead.
If I deny, I am condemned already,
In courts where ghosts appear as wit-
nesses,

And swear men's lives away. If I
confess,
Then I confess a lie, to buy a life
Which is not life, but only death in
life.

I will not bear false witness against
any, ⁶⁰
Not even against myself, whom I
count least.

GARDNER (*aside*).

Ah, what a noble character is this!

COREY.

I pray you, do not urge me to do
that
You would not do yourself. I have
already
The bitter taste of death upon my
lips;
I feel the pressure of the heavy weight
That will crush out my life within
this hour;
But if a word could save me, and
that word
Were not the Truth; nay, if it did
but swerve
A hair's-breadth from the Truth, I
would not say it! ⁷⁰

GARDNER (*aside*).

How mean I seem beside a man like
this!

COREY.

As for my wife, my Martha and my
Martyr,
Whose virtues, like the stars, unseen
by day,
Though numberless, do but await the
dark
To manifest themselves unto all
eyes,
She who first won me from my evil
ways,
And taught me how to live by her ex-
ample,
By her example teaches me to die,
And leads me onward to the better
life!

SHERIFF (*without*).

Giles Corey! Come! The hour has
struck!

COREY.

I come! &
Here is my body; ye may torture it,
But the immortal soul ye cannot
crush! [Exeunt.

SCENE III. — *A street in the Village.**Enter GLOYD and others.*

GLOYD.

Quick, or we shall be late!

A MAN.

That's not the way.
Come here; come up this lane.

GLOYD.

I wonder now
If the old man will die, and will not
speak?
He's obstinate enough and tough
enough
For anything on earth.

A bell tolls.

Hark! What is that?

A MAN.

The passing bell. He's dead!

GLOYD.

We are too late.
[Exeunt in haste.

SCENE IV. — *A field near the grave-
yard. GILES COREY lying dead,
with a great stone on his breast. The
Sheriff at his head, RICHARD GARD-
NER at his feet. A crowd behind.
The bell tolling. Enter HATHORNE
and MATHER.*

HATHORNE.

This is the Potter's Field. Behold the
fate
Of those who deal in Witchcrafts, and
when questioned,
Refuse to plead their guilt or inno-
cence,
And stubbornly drag death upon
themselves.

MATHER.

O sight most horrible! In a land like
this,

Spangled with Churches Evangeli-
cal

Inwrapped in our salvations, must we
seek

In mouldering statute-books of Eng-
lish Courts

Some old forgotten Law, to do such
deeds?

Those who lie buried in the Potter's
Field

Will rise again, as surely as ourselves¹⁰
That sleep in honored graves with epi-
taphs;

And this poor man, whom we have
made a victim,

Hereafter will be counted as a mar-
tyr!

FINALE

SAINT JOHN

SAINT JOHN *wandering over the face of
the Earth.*

SAINT JOHN.

THE Ages come and go,
The Centuries pass as Years;
My hair is white as the snow,
My feet are weary and slow,
The earth is wet with my tears!
The kingdoms crumble, and fall
Apart, like a ruined wall,
Or a bank that is undermined
By a river's ceaseless flow,
And leave no trace behind!¹⁰
The world itself is old;
The portals of Time unfold
On hinges of iron, that grate
And groan with the rust and the
weight,
Like the hinges of a gate
That hath fallen to decay;
But the evil doth not cease;
There is war instead of peace,
Instead of Love there is hate;
And still I must wander and wait,²⁰
Still I must watch and pray,
Not forgetting in whose sight,
A thousand years in their flight
Are as a single day.

The life of man is a gleam
Of light, that comes and goes

Like the course of the Holy Stream,
The cityless river, that flows
From fountains no one knows,
Through the Lake of Galilee, 30
Through forests and level lands,
Over rocks, and shallows, and sands
Of a wilderness wild and vast,
Till it findeth its rest at last
In the desolate Dead Sea!

But alas! alas for me
Not yet this rest shall be!

What, then! doth Charity fail?
Is Faith of no avail?
Is Hope blown out like a light 40
By a gust of wind in the night?
The clashing of creeds, and the strife
Of the many beliefs, that in vain
Perplex man's heart and brain,
Are naught but the rustle of leaves,
When the breath of God upheaves
The boughs of the Tree of Life,
And they subside again!
And I remember still
The words, and from whom they came,
Not he that repeateth the name, 5'
But he that doeth the will!

And Him evermore I behold
Walking in Galilee,
Through the cornfield's waving gold,
In hamlet, in wood, and in wold,
By the shores of the Beautiful Sea.
He toucheth the sightless eyes;
Before him the demons flee;
To the dead He sayeth: Arise! 60
To the living: Follow me!
And that voice still soundeth on
From the centuries that are gone,
To the centuries that shall be!

From all vain pomps and shows,
From the pride that overflows,
And the false conceits of men;
From all the narrow rules
And subtleties of Schools,
And the craft of tongue and pen; 70
Bewildered in its search,
Bewildered with the cry:
Lo, here! lo, there, the Church!
Poor, sad Humanity
Through all the dust and heat
Turns back with bleeding feet,
By the weary road it came,
Unto the simple thought
By the great Master taught,
And that remaineth still: 80
Not he that repeateth the name,
But he that doeth the will!

Jerusalem

JUDAS MACCABÆUS

ACT I

THE CITADEL OF ANTIOCHUS AT
JERUSALEM

SCENE I. — ANTIOCHUS ; JASON.

ANTIOCHUS.

O ANTIOCH, my Antioch, my city!
Queen of the East! my solace, my
delight!

The dowry of my sister Cleopatra
When she was wed to Ptolemy, and
now

Won back and made more wonderful
by me!

I love thee, and I long to be once
more

Among the players and the dancing
women

Within thy gates, and bathe in the
Orontes,

Thy river and mine. O Jason, my
High-Priest,

For I have made thee so, and thou art
mine,

Hast thou seen Antioch the Beauti-
ful?

JASON.

Never, my Lord.

ANTIOCHUS.

Then hast thou never seen
The wonder of the world. This city
of David

Compared with Antioch is but a vil-
lage,

And its inhabitants compared with
Greeks

Are mannerless boora.

JASON.

They are barbarians,
And mannerless.

ANTIOCHUS.

They must be civilized.
They must be made to have more gods
than one ;
And goddesses besides.

JASON.

They shall have more.

ANTIOCHUS.

They must have hippodromes, and
games, and baths, ²⁰
Stage-plays and festivals, and most of
all
The Dionysia.

JASON.

They shall have them all.

ANTIOCHUS.

By Heracles ! but I should like to see
These Hebrews crowned with ivy,
and arrayed
In skins of fawns, with drums and
flutes and thyrsi,
Revel and riot through the solemn
streets
Of their old town. Ha, ha ! It makes
me merry
Only to think of it ! — Thou dost not
laugh.

JASON.

Yea, I laugh inwardly.

ANTIOCHUS.

The new Greek leaven
Works slowly in this Israelitish dough !
Have I not sacked the Temple, and on
the altar ³¹
Set up the statue of Olympian Zeus
To Hellenize it ?

JASON.

Thou hast done all this.

ANTIOCHUS.

As thou wast Joshua once and now
art Jason,
And from a Hebrew hast become a
Greek,
So shall this Hebrew nation be trans-
lated,
Their very natures and their names be
changed,
And all be Hellenized.

JASON.

It shall be done.

ANTIOCHUS.

Their manners and their laws and way
of living
Shall all be Greek. They shall un-
learn their language, ⁴⁰
And learn the lovely speech of An-
tioch.
Where hast thou been to-day ? Thou
comest late.

JASON.

Playing at discus with the other
priests
In the Gymnasium.

ANTIOCHUS.

Thou hast done well.
There's nothing better for you lazy
priests
Than discus-playing with the common
people.
Now tell me, Jason, what these He-
brews call me
When they converse together at their
games.

JASON.

Antiochus Epiphanes, my Lord ; ⁴⁹
Antiochus the Illustrious.

ANTIOCHUS.

Oh, not that ;
That is the public cry ; I mean the
name
They give me when they talk among
themselves,
And think that no one listens ; what
is that ?

JASON.

Antiochus Epimanes, my Lord !

ANTIOCHUS.

Antiochus the Mad ! Ay, that is it.
And who hath said it ? Who hath set
in motion
That sorry jest ?

JASON.

The Seven Sons insane
Of a weird woman, like themselves
insane.

ANTIOCHUS.

I like their courage, but it shall not
save them.

They shall be made to eat the flesh of
swine ⁶⁰
Or they shall die. Where are they ?

JASON.

In the dungeons
Beneath this tower.

ANTIOCHUS.

There let them stay and starve,
Till I am ready to make Greeks of
them,
After my fashion.

JASON.

They shall stay and starve. —
My Lord, the Ambassadors of Samaria
Await thy pleasure.

ANTIOCHUS.

Why not my displeasure ?
Ambassadors are tedious. They are
men
Who work for their own ends, and not
for mine ;
There is no furtherance in them. Let
them go
To Apollonius, my governor ⁷⁰
There in Samaria, and not trouble me.
What do they want ?

JASON.

Only the royal sanction
To give a name unto a nameless
temple
Upon Mount Gerizim.

ANTIOCHUS.

Then bid them enter.
This pleases me, and furthers my designs.
The occasion is auspicious. Bid them enter.

SCENE II. — ANTIOCHUS; JASON; *the*
SAMARITAN AMBASSADORS.

ANTIOCHUS.

Approach. Come forward; stand not
at the door
Wagging your long beards, but demean yourselves
As doth become Ambassadors. What seek ye?

AN AMBASSADOR.

An audience from the King.

ANTIOCHUS.

Speak, and be brief.
Waste not the time in useless rhetoric.
Words are not things.

AMBASSADOR (*reading*).

"To King Antiochus,
The God, Epiphanes; a Memorial
From the Sidonians, who live at
Sichem."

ANTIOCHUS.

Sidonians?

AMBASSADOR.

Ay, my Lord.

ANTIOCHUS.

Go on, go on!
And do not tire thyself and me with
bowing! 10

AMBASSADOR (*reading*).

"We are a colony of Medes and Persians."

ANTIOCHUS.

No, ye are Jews from one of the Ten
Tribes;
Whether Sidonians or Samaritans
Or Jews of Jewry, matters not to me;
Ye are all Israelites, ye are all Jews.
When the Jews prosper, ye claim
kindred with them;
When the Jews suffer, ye are Medes
and Persians;
I know that in the days of Alexander

Ye claimed exemption from the annual
tribute

In the Sabbatic Year, because, ye
said,
Your fields had not been planted in
that year. 20

AMBASSADOR (*reading*).

"Our fathers, upon certain frequent
plagues,
And following an ancient superstition,
Were long accustomed to observe that
day
Which by the Israelites is called the
Sabbath,
And in a temple on Mount Gerizim
Without a name, they offered sacrifice.
Now we, who are Sidonians, beseech
thee,
Who art our benefactor and our
savior,
Not to confound us with these wicked
Jews, 30
But to give royal order and injunction
To Apollonius in Samaria,
Thy governor, and likewise to Nicanor,
Thy procurator, no more to molest us;
And let our nameless temple now be
named
The Temple of Jupiter Hellenius."

ANTIOCHUS.

This shall be done. Full well it
pleaseth me
Ye are not Jews, or are no longer
Jews,
But Greeks; if not by birth, yet
Greeks by custom.
Your nameless temple shall receive
the name 40
Of Jupiter Hellenius. Ye may go!

SCENE III. — ANTIOCHUS; JASON.

ANTIOCHUS.

My task is easier than I dreamed.
These people
Meet me half-way. Jason, didst thou
take note
How these Samaritans of Sichem said
They were not Jews? that they were
Medes and Persians,
They were Sidonians, anything but
Jews?

"T is of good augury. The rest will
follow
Till the whole land is Hellenized.

JASON.

My Lord,
These are Samaritana. The tribe of
Judah
Is of a different temper, and the task
Will be more difficult.

ANTIOCHUS.

Dost thou gainsay me?

JASON.

I know the stubborn nature of the
Jew. " "
Yesterday, Eleazer, an old man,

Being fourscore years and ten, chose
rather death
By torture than to eat the flesh of
swine.

ANTIOCHUS.

The life is in the blood, and the whole
nation
Shall bleed to death, or it shall change
its faith!

JASON.

Hundreds have fled already to the
mountains
Of Ephraim, where Judas Macca-
bæus
Hath raised the standard of revolt
against thee.

ANTIOCHUS.

I will burn down their city, and will
make it²⁰
Waste as a wilderness. Its thorough-
fares
Shall be but furrows in a field of
ashes.
It shall be sown with salt as Sodom
is!
This hundred and fifty-third Olympiad
Shall have a broad and blood-red seal
upon it,
Stamped with the awful letters of my
name,
Antiochus the God, Epiphanes!—
Where are those Seven Sons?

JASON.

My Lord, they wait
Thy royal pleasure.

ANTIOCHUS.

They shall wait no longer!

ACT II

THE DUNGEONS IN THE CITADEL

SCENE I. — THE MOTHER of the SEVEN SONS *alone, listening.*

THE MOTHER.

Be strong, my heart! Break not till
they are dead.
All, all my Seven Sons; then burst
asunder,
And let this tortured and tormented
soul
Leap and rush out like water through
the shards
Of earthen vessels broken at a well.
O my dear children, mine in life and
death,
I know not how ye came into my
womb;
I neither gave you breath, nor gave
you life,
And neither was it I that formed the
members⁹
Of every one of you. But the Creator,
Who made the world, and made the
heavens above us,
Who formed the generation of man-
kind,
And found out the beginning of all
things,

He gave you breath and life, and will
again

Of his own mercy, as ye now regard
Not your own selves, but his eternal
law.

I do not murmur, nay, I thank thee,
God,

That I and mine have not been deemed
unworthy

To suffer for thy sake, and for thy law,
And for the many sins of Israel.

Hark! I can hear within the sound of
scourges!

I feel them more than ye do, O my
sons!

But cannot come to you. I, who was
wont

To wake at night at the least cry ye
made,

To whom ye ran at every slightest
hurt,—

I cannot take you now into my lap
And soothe your pain, but God will
take you all

Into his pitying arms, and comfort
you,

And give you rest.

A VOICE (*within*).

What wouldst thou ask of us?
Ready are we to die, but we will
never³⁰

Transgress the law and customs of our
fathers.

THE MOTHER.

It is the voice of my first-born! O
brave

And noble boy! Thou hast the privi-
lege

Of dying first, as thou wast born the
first.

THE SAME VOICE (*within*).

God looketh on us, and hath comfort
in us;

As Moses in his song of old declared,
He in his servants shall be comforted.

THE MOTHER.

I knew thou wouldst not fail!—He
speaks no more,
He is beyond all pain!

ANTIOCHUS (*within*).

If thou eat not

Thou shalt be tortured throughout all
the members⁴⁰
Of thy whole body. Wilt thou eat
then?

SECOND VOICE (*within*).

No.

THE MOTHER.

It is Adaiab's voice. I tremble for
him.
I know his nature, devious as the
wind,
And swift to change, gentle and yield-
ing always.
Be steadfast, O my son!

THE SAME VOICE (*within*).

Thou, like a fury,
Takest us from this present life, but
God,
Who rules the world, shall raise us up
again
Into life everlasting.

THE MOTHER.

God, I thank thee
That thou hast breathed into that
timid heart
Courage to die for thee. O my Ada-
iah,⁵⁰
Witness of God! if thou for whom I
feared
Canst thus encounter death, I need not
fear;
The others will not shrink.

THIRD VOICE (*within*).

Behold these hands
Held out to thee, O King Antiochus,
Not to implore thy mercy, but to show
That I despise them. He who gave
them to me
Will give them back again.

THE MOTHER.

O Avilan,
It is thy voice. For the last time I
hear it;
For the last time on earth, but not the
last.
To death it bids defiance, and to tor-
ture.⁶⁰
It sounds to me as from another world,
And makes the petty miseries of this
Seem unto me as naught, and less
than naught.

Farewell, my Avilan; nay, I should
say

Welcome, my Avilan; for I am dead
Before thee. I am waiting for the
others.

Why do they linger?

FOURTH VOICE (*within*).

It is good, O King,
Being put to death by men, to look
for hope
From God, to be raised up again by
Him.
But thou — no resurrection shalt thou
have⁷⁰
To life hereafter.

THE MOTHER.

Four! already four!
Three are still living; nay, they are
all living,
Half here, half there. Make haste,
Antiochus,
To reunite us; for the sword that
cleaves
These miserable bodies makes a door
Through which our souls, impatient
of release,
Rush to each other's arms.

FIFTH VOICE (*within*).

Thou hast the power;
Thou doest what thou wilt. Abide
awhile,
And thou shalt see the power of God,
and how
He will torment thee and thy seed.

THE MOTHER.

O hasten;
Why dost thou pause? Thou who
hast slain already⁸⁰
So many Hebrew women, and hast
hung
Their murdered infants round their
necks, slay me,
For I too am a woman, and these boys
Are mine. Make haste to slay us
all,
And hang my lifeless babes about my
neck.

SIXTH VOICE (*within*).

Think not, Antiochus, that takest in
hand
To strive against the God of Israel,

Thou shalt escape unpunished, for his
wrath
Shall overtake thee and thy bloody
house. 90

THE MOTHER.

One more, my Sirion, and then all is
ended.
Having put all to bed, then in my
turn
I will lie down and sleep as sound as
they.
My Sirion, my youngest, best be-
loved!
And those bright golden locks, that I
so oft
I have curled about these fingers, even
now
Are foul with blood and dust, like a
lamb's fleece,
Slain in the shambles. — Not a sound
I hear.
This silence is more terrible to me 99
Than any sound, than any cry of pain,
That might escape the lips of one who
dies.
Doth his heart fail him? Doth he fall
away
In the last hour from God? O Sirion,
Sirion,
Art thou afraid? I do not hear thy
voice.
Die as thy brothers died. Thou must
not live!

SCENE II. — THE MOTHER; ANTIOCHUS; SIRION.

THE MOTHER.

Are they all dead?

ANTIOCHUS.

Of all thy Seven Sons
One only lives. Behold them where
they lie;
How dost thou like this picture?

THE MOTHER.

God in heaven!
Can a man do such deeds, and yet not
die
By the recoil of his own wickedness?
Ye murdered, bleeding, mutilated
bodies
That were my children once, and still
are mine,

I cannot watch o'er you as Rizpah
watched
In sackcloth o'er the seven sons of
Saul,
Till water drop upon you out of hea-
ven 10
And wash this blood away! I cannot
mourn
As she, the daughter of Aiah, mourned
the dead,
From the beginning of the barley-
harvest
Until the autumn rains, and suffered
not
The birds of air to rest on them by day,
Nor the wild beasts by night. For ye
have died
A better death, a death so full of life
That I ought rather to rejoice than
mourn. —
Wherefore art thou not dead, O Sir-
ion?
Wherefore art thou the only living
thing 20
Among thy brothers dead? Art thou
afraid?

ANTIOCHUS.

O woman, I have spared him for thy
sake,
For he is fair to look upon and
comely;
And I have sworn to him by all the
gods
That I would crown his life with joy
and honor,
Heap treasures on him, luxuries, de-
lights,
Make him my friend and keeper of
my secrets,
If he would turn from your Mosaic Law
And be as we are; but he will not lis-
ten. 29

THE MOTHER.

My noble Sirion!

ANTIOCHUS.

Therefore I beseech thee,
Who art his mother, thou wouldst
speak with him,
And wouldst persuade him. I am
sick of blood.

THE MOTHER.

Yea, I will speak with him and will
persuade him.

. . . "thou, Antiochus, shalt suffer
The punishment of pride"

O Sirion, my son! have pity on me,
On me that bare thee, and that gave
 thee suck,
And fed and nourished thee, and
 brought thee up
With the dear trouble of a mother's care
Unto this age. Look on the heavens
 above thee,
And on the earth and all that is therein;
Consider that God made them out of
 things
That were not; and that likewise in
 this manner
Mankind was made. Then fear not
 this tormentor;
But, being worthy of thy brethren, take
Thy death as they did, that I may re-
 ceive thee
Again in mercy with them.

ANTIOCHUS.

I am mocked,
Yea, I am laughed to scorn.

SIRION.

Whom wait ye for?
Never will I obey the King's com-
 mandment,

But the commandment of the ancient
 Law,
That was by Moses given unto our
 fathers.
And thou, O godless man, that of all
 others
Art the most wicked, be not lifted up,
Nor puffed up with uncertain hopes,
 uplifting
Thy hand against the servants of the
 Lord,
For thou hast not escaped the right-
 eous judgment
Of the Almighty God, who seeth all
 things!

ANTIOCHUS.

He is no God of mine; I fear Him not.

SIRION.

My brothers, who have suffered a
 brief pain,
Are dead; but thou, Antiochus, shalt
 suffer
The punishment of pride. I offer up
My body and my life, beseeching
 God

That He would speedily be merciful
Unto our nation, and that thou by
plagues
Mysterious and by torments mayest
confess
That He alone is God.

ANTIOCHUS.

Ye both shall perish
By torments worse than any that your
God,
Here or hereafter, hath in store for
me.

THE MOTHER.

My Sirion, I am proud of thee!

ANTIOCHUS.

Be silent!
Go to thy bed of torture in yon
chamber,
Where lie so many sleepers, heartless
mother!
Thy footsteps will not wake them,
nor thy voice,
Nor wilt thou hear, amid thy troubled
dreams,
Thy children crying for thee in the
night!

THE MOTHER.

O Death, that stretchest thy white
hands to me,
I fear them not, but press them to my
lips,
That are as white as thine; for I am
Death,
Nay, am the Mother of Death, seeing
these sons
All lying lifeless. — Kiss me, Sirion.

ACT III

THE BATTLE-FIELD OF BETH- HORON

SCENE I. — JUDAS MACCABÆUS *in
armor before his tent.*

JUDAS.

The trumpets sound; the echoes of
the mountains
Answer them, as the Sabbath morn-
ing breaks
Over Beth-horon and its battle-field,
Where the great captain of the hosts
of God,

A slave brought up in the brick-fields
of Egypt,
O'ercame the Amorites. There was
no day
Like that, before or after it, nor shall be.
The sun stood still; the hammers of
the hail
Beat on their harness; and the cap-
tains set
Their weary feet upon the necks of
kings,
As I will upon thine, Antiochus,
Thou man of blood! — Behold the
rising sun
Strikes on the golden letters of my
banner,
Be Elohim Yehovah! Who is like
To thee, O Lord, among the gods? —
Alas!
I am not Joshua, I cannot say,
“Sun, stand thou still on Gibeon, and
thou Moon,
In Ajalon!” Nor am I one who wastes
The fateful time in useless lamenta-
tion;
But one who bears his life upon his
hand
To lose it or to save it, as may best
Serve the designs of Him who giveth
life.

SCENE II. — JUDAS MACCABÆUS; JEW- ISH FUGITIVES.

JUDAS.

Who and what are ye, that with fur-
tive steps
Steal in among our tents?

FUGITIVES.

O Maccabæus,
Outcasts are we, and fugitives as thou
art,
Jews of Jerusalem, that have escaped
From the polluted city, and from
death.

JUDAS.

None can escape from death. Say
that ye come
To die for Israel, and ye are welcome.
What tidings bring ye?

FUGITIVES.

Tidings of despair.
The Temple is laid waste; the precious
vessels,

Censers of gold, vials and veils and
crowns,
And golden ornaments, and hidden¹⁰
treasures,
Have all been taken from it, and the
Gentiles
With revelling and with riot fill its
courts,
And dally with harlots in the holy
places.

JUDAS.

All this I knew before.

FUGITIVES.

Upon the altar
Are things profane, things by the law
forbidden ;
Nor can we keep our Sabbaths or our
Feasts,
But on the festivals of Dionysus
Must walk in their processions, bear-
ing ivy¹⁹
To crown a drunken god.

JUDAS.

This too I know.
But tell me of the Jews. How fare
the Jews ?

FUGITIVES.

The coming of this mischief hath been
sore
And grievous to the people. All the
land
Is full of lamentation and of mourn-
ing.
The Princes and the Elders weep and
wail ;
The young men and the maidens are
made feeble ;
The beauty of the women hath been
changed.

JUDAS.

And are there none to die for Israel ?
'T is not enough to mourn. Breast-
plate and harness
Are better things than sackcloth. Let
the women³⁰
Lament for Israel ; the men should
die.

FUGITIVES.

Both men and women die ; old men
and young :
Old Eleazer died : and Máhala
With all her Seven Sons.

JUDAS.

Antiochus,
At every step thou takest there is left
A bloody footprint in the street, by
which
The avenging wrath of God will track
thee out !
It is enough. Go to the sutler's tents :
Those of you who are men, put on
such armor
As ye may find ; those of you who are
women,⁴⁰
Buckle that armor on ; and for a
watchword
Whisper, or cry aloud, " The Help of
God."

SCENE III. — JUDAS MACCABÆUS ;
NICANOR.

NICANOR.

Hail, Judas Maccabæus !

JUDAS.

Hail ! — Who art thou
That comest here in this mysterious
guise
Into our camp unheralded ?

NICANOR.

A herald
Sent from Nicanor.

JUDAS.

Heralds come not thus.
Armed with thy shirt of mail from
head to heel,
Thou glidest like a serpent silently
Into my presence. Wherefore dost
thou turn
Thy face from me ? A herald speaks
his errand
With forehead unabashed. Thou art
a spy⁹
Sent by Nicanor.

NICANOR.

No disguise avails !
Behold my face ; I am Nicanor's self.

JUDAS.

Thou art indeed Nicanor. I salute
thee.
What brings thee hither to this hostile
camp
Thus unattended ?

NICANOR.

Confidence in thee.
 Thou hast the nobler virtues of thy
 race,
 Without the failings that attend those
 virtues.
 Thou canst be strong, and yet not
 tyrannous,
 Canst righteous be and not intolerant.
 Let there be peace between us.

JUDAS.

What is peace?
 Is it to bow in silence to our vic-
 tors?
 Is it to see our cities sacked and pil-
 laged,
 Our people slain, or sold as slaves, or
 fleeing
 At night-time by the blaze of burning
 towns;
 Jerusalem laid waste; the Holy
 Temple
 Polluted with strange gods? Are
 these things peace?

NICANOR.

These are the dire necessities that
 wait
 On war, whose loud and bloody en-
 ginery
 I seek to stay. Let there be peace be-
 tween
 Antiochus and thee.

JUDAS.

Antiochus?
 What is Antiochus, that he should
 prate
 Of peace to me, who am a fugitive?
 To-day he shall be lifted up; to-
 morrow
 Shall not be found, because he is re-
 turned
 Unto his dust; his thought has come
 to nothing.
 There is no peace between us, nor can
 be,
 Until this banner floats upon the walls
 Of our Jerusalem.

NICANOR.

Between that city
 And thee there lies a waving wall of
 tents
 Held by a host of forty thousand
 foot.

And horsemen seven thousand. What
 hast thou
 To bring against all these? 40

JUDAS.

The power of God,
 Whose breath shall scatter your white
 tents abroad,
 As flakes of snow.

NICANOR.

Your Mighty One in heaven
 Will not do battle on the Seventh
 Day;
 It is his day of rest.

JUDAS.

Silence, blasphemer.
 Go to thy tents.

NICANOR.

Shall it be war or peace?

JUDAS.

War, war, and only war. Go to thy
 tents
 That shall be scattered, as by you
 were scattered
 The torn and trampled pages of the
 Law,
 Blown through the windy streets. 49

NICANOR.

Farewell, brave foe!

JUDAS.

Ho, there, my captains! Have safe-
 conduct given
 Unto Nicanor's herald through the
 camp,
 And come yourselves to me. — Fare-
 well, Nicanor!

SCENE IV. — JUDAS MACCABÆUS;
 CAPTAINS AND SOLDIERS.

JUDAS.

The hour is come. Gather the host to-
 gether
 For battle. Lo, with trumpets and
 with songs
 The army of Nicanor comes against
 us.
 Go forth to meet them, praying in
 your hearts,
 And fighting with your hands.

CAPTAINS.

Look forth and see!
The morning sun is shining on their
shields
Of gold and brass; the mountains
glisten with them,
And shine like lamps. And we, who
are so few
And poorly armed, and ready to faint
with fasting,
How shall we fight against this multi-
tude?

JUDAS.

The victory of a battle standeth not
In multitudes, but in the strength that
cometh
From heaven above. The Lord forbid
that I
Should do this thing, and flee away
from them.
Nay, if our hour be come, then let us
die;
Let us not stain our honor.

CAPTAINS.

'T is the Sabbath.
Wilt thou fight on the Sabbath, Mac-
cabæus?

JUDAS.

Ay; when I fight the battles of the
Lord,
I fight them on his day, as on all
others.
Have ye forgotten certain fugitives
That fled once to these hills, and hid
themselves
In caves? How their pursuers camped
against them
Upon the Seventh Day, and challenged
them?
And how they answered not, nor cast
a stone,
Nor stopped the places where they lay
concealed,
But meekly perished with their wives
and children,

Even to the number of a thousand
souls?
We who are fighting for our laws and
lives
Will not so perish.

CAPTAINS.

Lead us to the battle!

JUDAS.

And let our watchword be, "The
Help of God!"
Last night I dreamed a dream; and in³⁰
my vision
Beheld Onias, our High-Priest of old,
Who holding up his hands prayed for
the Jews.
This done, in the like manner there
appeared
An old man, and exceeding glorious,
With hoary hair, and of a wonderful
And excellent majesty. And Onias
said:
"This is a lover of the Jews, who
prayeth
Much for the people and the Holy
City, —
God's prophet Jeremias." And the
prophet⁴⁰
Held forth his right hand and gave
unto me
A sword of gold; and giving it he
said:
"Take thou this holy sword, a gift
from God,
And with it thou shalt wound thine
adversaries."

CAPTAINS.

The Lord is with us!

JUDAS.

Hark! I hear the trumpets
Sound from Beth-horon; from the
battle-field
Of Joshua, where he smote the Amor-
ites,
Smote the Five Kings of Eglon and
of Jarmuth,
Of Hebron, Lachish, and Jerusalem,
As we to-day will smite Nicanor's
hosts⁵⁰
And leave a memory of great deeds
behind us.

CAPTAINS AND SOLDIERS.

The Help of God!

JUDAS.

Be Elohim Yehovah!

Lord, thou didst send thine Angel in
the time
Of Esekias, King of Israel,
And in the armies of Sennacherib
Didst slay a hundred fourscore and
five thousand.
Wherefore, O Lord of heaven, now
also send
Before us a good angel for a fear,
And through the might of thy right
arm let those
Be stricken with terror that have come
this day⁶⁰
Against thy holy people to blaspheme!

ACT IV

THE OUTER COURTS OF THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM

SCENE I. — JUDAS MACCABÆUS; CAP-
TAINS; JEWS.

JUDAS.

Behold, our enemies are discomfited.
Jerusalem has fallen; and our banners
Float from her battlements, and o'er
her gates
Nicanor's severed head, a sign of terror,
Blackens in wind and sun.

CAPTAINS.

O Maccabæus,
The citadel of Antiochus, wherein
The Mother with her Seven Sons was
murdered,
Is still defiant.

JUDAS.

Wait.

CAPTAINS.

Its hateful aspect
Insults us with the bitter memories
Of other days.

JUDAS.

Wait; it shall disappear¹⁰
And vanish as a cloud. First let us
cleanse
The Sanctuary. See, it is become
Waste like a wilderness. Its golden
gates⁵⁰
Wrenched from their hinges and con-
sumed by fire;

Shrubs growing in its courts as in a
forest;
Upon its altars hideous and strange
idols;
And strewn about its pavement at my
feet
Its Sacred Books, half-burned and
painted o'er
With images of heathen gods.

JEWS.

Woe! woe!
Our beauty and our glory are laid
waste!
The Gentiles have profaned our holy
places!
(*Lamentation and alarm of trumpets.*)

JUDAS.

This sound of trumpets, and this lam-
entation,
The heart-cry of a people toward the
heavens,
Stir me to wrath and vengeance. Go,
my captains;
I hold you back no longer. Batter
down
The citadel of Antiochus, while here
We sweep away his altars and his
gods.

SCENE II. — JUDAS MACCABÆUS; JA-
SON; JEWS.

JEWS.

Lurking among the ruins of the Tem-
ple,
Deep in its inner courts, we found this
man,
Clad as High-Priest.

JUDAS.

I ask not who thou art,
I know thy face, writ over with
deceit
As are these tattered volumes of the
Law
With heathen images. A priest of
God
Wast thou in other days, but thou art
now
A priest of Satan. Traitor, thou art
Jason.

JASON.

I am thy prisoner, Judas Maccabæus.

And it would ill become me to con-
ceal
My name or office.

JUDAS.

Over yonder gate
There hangs the head of one who was
a Greek.
What should prevent me now, thou
man of sin,
From hanging at its side the head of
one
Who born a Jew hath made himself a
Greek?

JASON.

Justice prevents thee.

JUDAS.

Justice? Thou art stained
With every crime 'gainst which the
Decalogue
Thunders with all its thunder.

JASON.

If not Justice,
Then Mercy, her handmaiden.

JUDAS.

When hast thou
At any time, to any man or woman, 20
Or even to any little child, shown
mercy?

JASON.

I have but done what King Antiochus
Commanded me.

JUDAS.

True, thou hast been the weapon
With which he struck; but hast been
such a weapon,
So flexible, so fitted to his hand,
It tempted him to strike. So thou
hast urged him
To double wickedness, thine own and
his.
Where is this King? Is he in Antioch
Among his women still, and from his
windows
Throwing down gold by handfuls, for
the rabble
To scramble for? 30

JASON.

Nay, he is gone from there,
Gone with an army into the far East.

JUDAS.

And wherefore gone?

JABON,

I know not! For the space
Of forty days almost were horsemen
seen
Running in air, in cloth of gold, and
armed
With lances, like a band of soldiery;
It was a sign of triumph!

JUDAS.

Or of death!
Wherefore art thou not with him?

JABON.

I was left
For service in the Temple.

JUDAS.

To pollute it,
And to corrupt the Jews; for there
are men
Whose presence is corruption; to be
with them
Degrades us and deforms the things
we do.

JABON.

I never made a boast, as some men do,
Of my superior virtue, nor denied
The weakness of my nature, that hath
made me
Subservient to the will of other men.

JUDAS.

Upon this day, the five-and-twentieth
day
Of the month Caslan, was the Temple
here
Profaned by strangers, — by Antio-
chus
And thee, his instrument. Upon this
day

50

Shall it be cleansed. Thou, who didst
lend thyself

Unto this profanation, canst not be
A witness of these solemn services.
There can be nothing clean where
thou art present.

The people put to death Callisthenes,
Who burned the Temple gates; and
if they find thee
Will surely slay thee. I will spare
thy life

To punish thee the longer. Thou shalt
wander

Among strange nations. Thou, that
hast cast out

So many from their native land, shalt
perish

In a strange land. Thou, that hast
left so many

Unburied, shalt have none to mourn
for thee,

Nor any solemn funerals at all,
Nor sepulchre with thy fathers. —
Get thee hence!

Music. Procession of Priests and people, with citherns, harps, and cymbals. JUDAS MACCABÆUS puts himself at their head, and they go into the inner courts.

SCENE III. — JABON alone.

JABON.

Through the Gate Beautiful I see
them come,
With branches and green boughs and
leaves of palm,
And pass into the inner courts. Alas!
I should be with them, should be one
of them,
But in an evil hour, an hour of weak-
ness,

That cometh unto all, I fell away
From the old faith, and did not clutch
the new,
Only an outward semblance of belief ;
For the new faith I cannot make mine
own,

Not being born to it. It hath no root ¹⁰
Within me. I am neither Jew nor Greek,
But stand between them both, a rene-
gade

To each in turn ; having no longer faith
In gods or men. Then what mysteri-
ous charm,

What fascination is it chains my feet,
And keeps me gazing like a curious
child

Into the holy places, where the priests
Have raised their altar? — Striking
stones together,

They take fire out of them, and light
the lamps

In the great candlestick. They
spread the veils, ²⁰

And set the loaves of shewbread on
the table.

The incense burns ; the well-remem-
bered odor

Comes wafted unto me, and takes me
back

To other days. I see myself among them
As I was then ; and the old superstition
Creeps over me again ! — A childish
fancy ! —

And hark ! they sing with citherns
and with cymbals,

And all the people fall upon their faces,
Praying and worshipping ! — I will away

Into the East, to meet Antiochus ³⁰

Upon his homeward journey, crowned
with triumph.

Alas ! to-day I would give everything
To see a friend's face, or to hear a voice
That had the slightest tone of comfort
in it !

ACT V

THE MOUNTAINS OF ECBATANA

SCENE I. — ANTIOCHUS ; PHILIP ; AT-
TENDANTS.

ANTIOCHUS.

Here let us rest awhile. Where are
we, Philip ?

What place is this ?

PHILIP.

Ecbatana, my Lord ;
And yonder mountain range is the
Orontes.

ANTIOCHUS.

The Orontes is my river at Antioch.
Why did I leave it? Why have I
been tempted
By coverings of gold and shields and
breast-plates
To plunder Elymais, and be driven
From out its gates, as by a fiery blast
Out of a furnace?

PHILIP.

These are fortune's changes.

ANTIOCHUS.

What a defeat it was! The Persian
horsemen ¹⁰
Came like a mighty wind, the wind
Khamaseen,
And melted us away, and scattered us
As if we were dead leaves, or desert
sand.

PHILIP.

Be comforted, my Lord ; for thou
hast lost
But what thou hadst not.

ANTIOCHUS.

I, who made the Jews
Skip like the grasshoppers, am made
myself
To skip among these stones.

PHILIP.

Be not discouraged.
Thy realm of Syria remains to thee ;
That is not lost nor marred.

ANTIOCHUS.

Oh, where are now
The splendors of my court, my baths
and banquets ? ²⁰

Where are my players and my dan-
cing women ?

Where are my sweet musicians with
their pipes,

That made me merry in the olden
time ?

I am a laughing-stock to man and
brute.

The very camels, with their ugly
faces,

Mock me and laugh at me.

PHILIP.

Alas! my Lord,
It is not so. If thou wouldst sleep
awhile,
All would be well.

ANTIOCHUS.

Sleep from mine eyes is gone,
And my heart faileth me for very
care.
Dost thou remember, Philip, the old
fable³⁰
Told us when we were boys, in which
the bear
Going for honey overturns the hive,
And is stung blind by bees? I am
that beast,
Stung by the Persian swarms of Ely-
mais.

PHILIP.

When thou art come again to An-
tioch,
These thoughts will be as covered and
forgotten
As are the tracks of Pharaoh's chariot-
wheels
In the Egyptian sands.

ANTIOCHUS.

Ah! when I come
Again to Antioch! When will that
be?
Alas! alas!

SCENE II. — ANTIOCHUS; PHILIP; A
MESSENGER.

MESSENGER.

May the King live forever!

ANTIOCHUS.

Who art thou, and whence comest
thou?

MESSENGER.

My Lord,
I am a messenger from Antioch,
Sent here by Lysias.

ANTIOCHUS.

A strange foreboding
Of something evil overshadows me.
I am no reader of the Jewish Scrip-
tures;

I know not Hebrew; but my High-
Priest Jason,
As I remember, told me of a Prophet
Who saw a little cloud rise from the
sea

Like a man's hand, and soon the hea-
ven was black¹⁰
With clouds and rain. Here, Philip,
read; I cannot;
I see that cloud. It makes the letters
dim
Before mine eyes.

PHILIP (*reading*)

"To King Antiochus,
The God, Epiphanes."

ANTIOCHUS.

Oh mockery!
Even Lysias laughs at me! — Go on,
go on!

PHILIP (*reading*).

"We pray thee hasten thy return.
The realm
Is falling from thee. Since thou hast
gone from us
The victories of Judas Maccabæus
Form all our annals. First he over-
threw
Thy forces at Beth-horon, and passed
on,
And took Jerusalem, the Holy City.
And then Emmaus fell; and ther
Bethsura,
Ephron and all the towns of Galaad,
And Maccabæus marched to Carnion."

ANTIOCHUS.

Enough, enough! Go call my chariot-
men;
We will drive forward, forward, with-
out ceasing,
Until we come to Antioch. My cap-
tains,
My Lysias, Gorgias, Seron, and Nica-
nor,
Are babes in battle, and this dreadful
Jew
Will rob me of my kingdom and my
crown.³⁰
My elephants shall trample him to
dust;
I will wipe out his nation, and will
make

Jerusalem a common burying-place,
And every home within its walls a
tomb!

*Throws up his hands, and sinks into the
arms of attendants, who lay him
upon a bank.*

PHILIP.

Antiochus! Antiochus! Alas,
The King is ill! What is it, O my
Lord?

ANTIOCHUS.

Nothing. A sudden and sharp spasm
of pain,
As if the lightning struck me, or the
knife
Of an assassin smote me to the heart.
'T is passed, even as it came. Let us
set forward. 40

PHILIP.

See that the chariots be in readiness;
We will depart forthwith.

ANTIOCHUS.

A moment more.
I cannot stand. I am become at once
Weak as an infant. Ye will have to
lead me.
Jove, or Jehovah, or whatever name
Thou wouldst be named, — it is alike
to me, —
If I knew how to pray, I would en-
treat
To live a little longer.

PHILIP.

O my Lord,
Thou shalt not die; we will not let
thee die!

ANTIOCHUS.

How canst thou help it, Philip? Oh
the pain! 50
Stab after stab. Thou hast no shield
against
This unseen weapon. God of Israel,
Since all the other gods abandon me,
Help me. I will release the Holy City,
Garnish with goodly gifts the Holy
Temple.

Thy people, whom I judged to be un-
worthy

To be so much as buried, shall be equal
Unto the citizens of Antioch.

I will become a Jew, and will declare
Through all the world that is in-
habited 60

The power of God!

PHILIP.

He faints. It is like death.
Bring here the royal litter. We will
bear him

Into the camp, while yet he lives.

ANTIOCHUS.

O Philip,
Into what tribulation am I come!
Alas! I now remember all the evil
That I have done the Jews; and for
this cause

These troubles are upon me, and be-
hold

I perish through great grief in a
strange land.

PHILIP.

Antiochus! my King!

ANTIOCHUS.

Nay, King no longer.
Take thou my royal robes, my signet
ring, 70

My crown and sceptre, and deliver
them

Unto my son, Antiochus Eupator;
And unto the good Jews, my citi-
zens,

In all my towns, say that their dying
monarch

Wisheth them joy, prosperity, and
health.

I who, puffed up with pride and arro-
gance,

Thought all the kingdoms of the earth
mine own,

If I would but outstretch my hand
and take them,

Meet face to face a greater poten-
tate,

King Death — Epiphanes — the illus-
trious! 80

[Dies.]

Michael Angelo

MICHAEL ANGELO

Michel piu che mortal, Angel divino.

ARISTO.

Stilamente operando all' artista

Ch' a l' abito dell' arte e man che trema.

DANTE, *Par.* xlii. *st.* 77.

DEDICATION

Nothing that is shall perish utterly,
But perish only to revive again

In other forms, as clouds restore in
rain
The exhalations of the land and
sea.

Men build their houses from the masonry
 Of ruined tombs; the passion and the pain
 Of hearts, that long have ceased to beat, remain
 To throb in hearts that are, or are to be.
 So from old chronicles, where sleep in dust
 Names that once filled the world with trumpet tones,
 I build this verse; and flowers of song have thrust
 Their roots among the loose disjointed stones,
 Which to this end I fashion as I must.
 Quickened are they that touch the Prophet's bones.

PART FIRST

I

PROLOGUE AT ISCHIA

The Castle Terrace. VITTORIA COLONNA and JULIA GONZAGA.

VITTORIA.

WILL you then leave me, Julia, and so soon,
 To pace alone this terrace like a ghost?

JULIA.

To-morrow, dearest.

VITTORIA.

Do not say to-morrow.
 A whole month of to-morrows were too soon.
 You must not go. You are a part of me.

JULIA.

I must return to Fondi.

VITTORIA.

The old castle
 Needs not your presence. No one waits for you.
 Stay one day longer with me. They who go
 Feel not the pain of parting; it is they
 Who stay behind that suffer. I was thinking

10

But yesterday how like and how unlike
 Have been, and are, our destinies.
 Your husband,
 The good Vespasian, an old man, who seemed
 A father to you rather than a husband,
 Died in your arms; but mine, in all the flower
 And promise of his youth, was taken from me
 As by a rushing wind. The breath of battle
 Breathed on him, and I saw his face no more,
 Save as in dreams it haunts me. As our love
 Was for these men, so is our sorrow for them.
 Yours a child's sorrow, smiling through its tears;
 But mine the grief of an impassioned woman,
 Who drank her life up in one draught of love.

JULIA.

Behold this locket. This is the white hair
 Of my Vespasian. This the flower-of-love,
 This amaranth, and beneath it the device,
Non moritura. Thus my heart remains
 True to his memory; and the ancient castle,
 Where we have lived together, where he died,
 Is dear to me as Ischia is to you.

VITTORIA.

I did not mean to chide you.

JULIA.

Let your heart
 Find, if it can, some poor apology
 For one who is too young, and feels too keenly
 The joy of life, to give up all her days
 To sorrow for the dead. While I am true
 To the remembrance of the man I loved
 And mourn for still, I do not make a show

Of all the grief I feel, nor live se-
cluded
And, like Veronica da Gámbara,
Drape my whole house in mourning,
and drive forth⁴⁰
In coach of sable drawn by sable
horses,
As if I were a corpse. Ah, one to-
day
Is worth for me a thousand yester-
days.

VITTORIA.

Dear Julia! Friendship has its jeal-
ousies
As well as love. Who waits for you
at Fondi?

JULIA.

A friend of mine and yours; a friend
and friar.
You have at Naples your Fra Ber-
nardino;
And I at Fondi have my Fra Bastiano,
The famous artist, who has come from
Rome
To paint my portrait. That is not a
sin.⁵⁰

VITTORIA.

Only a vanity.

JULIA.

He painted yours.

VITTORIA.

Do not call up to me those days de-
parted,
When I was young, and all was bright
about me,
And the vicissitudes of life were
things
But to be read of in old histories,
Though as pertaining unto me or
mine
Impossible. Ah, then I dreamed your
dreams,
And now, grown older, I look back
and see
They were illusions.

JULIA.

Yet without illusions
What would our lives become, what
we ourselves?⁶⁰
Dreams or illusions, call them what
you will,

They lift us from the commonplace of
life
To better things.

VITTORIA.

Are there no brighter dreams,
No higher aspirations, than the wish
To please and to be pleased?

✱ JULIA.

For you there are:
I am no saint; I feel the world we live
in
Comes before that which is to be
hereafter,
And must be dealt with first.

VITTORIA.

But in what way?

JULIA.

Let the soft wind that wafts to us the
odor
Of orange blossoms, let the laughing
sea
And the bright sunshine bathing all⁷⁰
the world,
Answer the question.

VITTORIA.

And for whom is meant
This portrait that you speak of?

JULIA.

For my friend
The Cardinal Ippolito.

VITTORIA.

For him?

JULIA.

Yes, for Ippolito the Magnificent.
'Tis always flattering to a woman's
pride
To be admired by one whom all ad-
mire.

VITTORIA.

Ah, Julia, she that makes herself a
dove
Is eaten by the hawk. Be on your
guard.
He is a Cardinal; and his adoration &
Should be elsewhere directed.

JULIA.

You forget
The horror of that night, when Bar-
barossa,

The Moorish corsair, landed on our
coast

To seize me for the Sultan Soliman ;
How in the dead of night, when all
were sleeping,

He scaled the castle wall ; how I es-
caped,

And in my night-dress, mounting a
swift steed,

Fled to the mountains, and took re-
fuge there

Among the brigands. Then of all my
friends

The Cardinal Ippolito was first 90
To come with his retainers to my res-
cue.

Could I refuse the only boon he asked
At such a time, my portrait ?

VITTORIA.

I have heard
Strange stories of the splendors of his
palace,

And how, apparelled like a Spanish
Prince,

He rides through Rome with a long
retinue

Of Ethiopians and Numidians

And Turks and Tartars, in fantastic
dresses,

Making a gallant show. Is this the
way 99

A Cardinal should live ?

JULIA.

He is so young ;
Hardly of age, or little more than
that ;

Beautiful, generous, fond of arts and
letters,

A poet, a musician, and a scholar ;
Master of many languages, and a
player

On many instruments. In Rome, his
palace

Is the asylum of all men distinguished
In art or science, and all Florentines

Escaping from the tyranny of his
cousin,

Duke Alessandro.

VITTORIA.

I have seen his portrait,
Painted by Titian. You have painted
it 110

In brighter colors.

JULIA.

And my Cardinal,
At Itri, in the courtyard of his palace,
Keeps a tame lion !

VITTORIA.

And so counterfeits
St. Mark, the Evangelist !

JULIA.

Ah, your tame lion
Is Michael Angelo.

VITTORIA.

You speak a name
That always thrills me with a noble
sound,

As of a trumpet ! Michael Angelo !

A lion all men fear and none can tame ;
A man that all men honor, and the
model

That all should follow ; one who
works and prays, 120

For work is prayer, and consecrates
his life

To the sublime ideal of his art,
Till art and life are one ; a man who
holds

Such place in all men's thoughts, that
when they speak

Of great things done, or to be done,
his name

Is ever on their lips.

JULIA.

You too can paint
The portrait of your hero, and in
colors

Brighter than Titian's ; I might warn
you also

Against the dangers that beset your
path ; 129

But I forbear.

VITTORIA.

If I were made of marble,
Of Fior di Persico or Pavonazzo,

He might admire me : being but flesh
and blood,

I am no more to him than other wo-
men ;

That is, am nothing.

JULIA.

Does he ride through Rome
Upon his little mule, as he was wont,

With his slouched hat, and boots of
Cordovan,
As when I saw him last ?

VITTORIA.

Pray do not jest.
I cannot couple with his noble name
A trivial word! Look, how the set-
ting sun¹³⁹
Lights up Castel-a-mare and Sorrento,
And changes Capri to a purple cloud!
And there Vesuvius with its plume of
smoke,
And the great city stretched upon the
shore
As in a dream!

JULIA.

Parthenope the Siren !

VITTORIA.

And yon long line of lights, those sun-
lit windows
Blaze like the torches carried in pro-
cession
To do her honor ! It is beautiful !

JULIA.

I have no heart to feel the beauty of it !
My feet are weary, pacing up and
down
These level flags, and wearier still my
thoughts¹⁵⁰
Treading the broken pavement of the
Past.
It is too sad. I will go in and rest,
And make me ready for to-morrow's
journey.

VITTORIA.

I will go with you ; for I would not lose
One hour of your dear presence. 'T is
enough
Only to be in the same room with you.
I need not speak to you, nor hear you
speak ;
If I but see you, I am satisfied.
[*They go in.*]

MONOLOGUE : THE LAST JUDGMENT

MICHAEL ANGELO'S *Studio*. *He is at
work on the cartoon of the Last Judg-
ment.*

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Why did the Pope and his ten Cardi-
nals

Come here to lay this heavy task upon
me ?

Were not the paintings on the Sistine
ceiling

Enough for them ? They saw the
Hebrew leader

Waiting, and clutching his tempestu-
ous beard,

But heeded not. The bones of Julius
Shook in their sepulchre. I heard the
sound ;

They only heard the sound of their
own voices.

Are there no other artists here in
Rome

To do this work, that they must needs
seek me ?¹⁰

Fra Bastian, my Fra Bastian, might
have done it,

But he is lost to art. The Papal Seals.
Like leaden weights upon a dead man's
eyes,

Press down his lids ; and so the bur-
den falls

On Michael Angelo, Chief Architect
And Painter of the Apostolic Palace.
That is the title they cajole me with,
To make me do their work and leave
my own ;

But having once begun, I turn not
back.

Blow, ye bright angels, on your golden
trumpets²⁰

To the four corners of the earth, and
wake

The dead to judgment ! Ye recording
angels,

Open your books and read ! Ye
dead, awake !

Rise from your graves, drowsy and
drugged with death,

As men who suddenly aroused from
sleep

Look round amazed, and know not
where they are !

✱

In happy hours, when the imagination
Wakes like a wind at midnight, and
the soul

Trembles in all its leaves, it is a joy
To be uplifted on its wings, and lis-
ten³⁰

To the prophetic voices in the air
That call us onward. Then the work
we do

Is a delight, and the obedient hand
Never grows weary. But how differ-
ent is it

In the disconsolate, discouraged hours,
When all the wisdom of the world
appears

As trivial as the gossip of a nurse
In a sick-room, and all our work seems
useless.

What is it guides my hand, what
thoughts possess me,

That I have drawn her face among the
angels,

Where she will be hereafter? O sweet
dreams,

That through the vacant chambers of
my heart

Walk in the silence, as familiar phan-
toms

Frequent an ancient house, what will
ye with me?

'T is said that Emperors write their
names in green

When under age, but when of age in
purple.

So Love, the greatest Emperor of them
all,

Writes his in green at first, but after-
wards

In the imperial purple of our blood.

First love or last love, — which of
these two passions

Is more omnipotent? Which is more
fair,

The star of morning, or the evening
star?

The sunrise or the sunset of the heart?

The hour when we look forth to the
unknown.

And the advancing day consumes the
shadows.

Or that when all the landscape of our
lives

Lies stretched behind us, and familiar
places

Gleam in the distance, and sweet mem-
ories

Rise like a tender haze, and magnify
The objects we behold, that soon must
vanish ? 60

What matters it to me, whose counte-
nance
Is like Laocoön's, full of pain ? whose
forehead
Is a ploughed harvest-field, where
threescore years
Have sown in sorrow and have reaped
in anguish ?
To me, the artisan, to whom all women
Have been as if they were not, or at
most
A sudden rush of pigeons in the air,
A flutter of wings, a sound, and then
a silence ?
I am too old for love ; I am too old
To flatter and delude myself with vis-
ions 70
Of never-ending friendship with fair
women,
Imaginations, fantasies, illusions,
In which the things that cannot be
take shape,
And seem to be, and for the moment
are.

Convent bells ring.

Distant and near and low and loud the
bells,
Dominican, Benedictine, and Francis-
can,
Jangle and wrangle in their airy
towers,
Discordant as the brotherhoods them-
selves
In their dim cloisters. The descend-
ing sun 79
Seems to caress the city that he loves,
And crowns it with the aureole of a
saint.
I will go forth and breathe the air
awhile.

II

SAN SILVESTRO

*A Chapel in the Church of San Silves-
tro on Monte Cavallo.*

VITTORIA COLONNA, CLAUDIO TO-
LOMMEI, and others.

VITTORIA.

Here let us rest awhile, until the
crowd

Has left the church. I have already
sent
For Michael Angelo to join us here.

MESSER CLAUDIO.

After Fra Bernardino's wise discourse
On the Pauline Epistles, certainly
Some words of Michael Angelo on
Art
Were not amiss, to bring us back to
earth.

MICHAEL ANGELO, *at the door.*

How like a Saint or Goddess she ap-
pears!
Diana or Madonna, which I know
not,
In attitude and aspect formed to
be 10
At once the artist's worship and de-
spair!

VITTORIA.

Welcome, Maestro. We were waiting
for you.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I met your messenger upon the way,
And hastened hither.

VITTORIA.

It is kind of you
To come to us, who linger here like
gossips
Wasting the afternoon in idle talk.
These are all friends of mine and
friends of yours.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

If friends of yours, then are they friends
of mine.
Pardon me, gentlemen. But when I
entered 19
I saw but the Marchesa.

VITTORIA.

Take this seat
Between me and Ser Claudio Tolom-
mei,
Who still maintains that our Italian
tongue
Should be called Tuscan. But for
that offence
We will not quarrel with him.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Eccellenza—

"Welcome, Maestro. We were waiting for you

VITTORIA.

Ser Claudio has banished Eccellenza
And all such titles from the Tuscan
tongue.

MESSER CLAUDIO.

'T is the abuse of them, and not the
use,
I deprecate.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The use or the abuse,
It matters not. Let them all go to-
gether,
As empty phrases and frivolities, 30
And common as gold-lace upon the
collar
Of an obsequious lackey.

VITTORIA.

That may be,
But something of politeness would go
with them;
We should lose something of the
stately manners
Of the old school.

MESSER CLAUDIO.

Undoubtedly

VITTORIA.

But that
Is not what occupies my thoughts at
present,
Nor why I sent for you, Messer Mi-
chele.
It was to counsel me. His Holiness
Has granted me permission, long de-
sired,
To build a convent in this neighbor-
hood, 40
Where the old tower is standing, from
whose top
Nero looked down upon the burning
city.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

It is an inspiration!

VITTORIA.

I am doubtful
How I shall build; how large to make
the convent,
And which way fronting.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ah, to build, to build!
 That is the noblest art of all the arts.
 Painting and sculpture are but images,
 Are merely shadows cast by outward
 things
 On stone or canvas, having in them-
 selves
 No separate existence. Architec-
 ture,
 Existing in itself, and not in seeming
 A something it is not, surpasses them
 As substance shadow. Long, long
 years ago,
 Standing one morning near the Baths
 of Titus,
 I saw the statue of Laocoön
 Rise from its grave of centuries, like a
 ghost
 Writhing in pain; and as it tore away
 The knotted serpents from its limbs, I
 heard,
 Or seemed to hear, the cry of agony
 From its white, parted lips. And still
 I marvel
 At the three Rhodian artists, by whose
 hands
 This miracle was wrought. Yet he
 beholds
 Far nobler works who looks upon the
 ruins
 Of temples in the Forum here in
 Rome.
 If God should give me power in my
 old age
 To build for Him a temple half as
 grand
 As those were in their glory, I should
 count
 My age more excellent than youth
 itself,
 And all that I have hitherto accom-
 plished
 As only vanity.

VITTORIA.

I understand you.
 Art is the gift of God, and must be
 used
 Unto His glory. That in art is highest
 Which aims at this. When St. Hila-
 rion blessed
 The horses of Italicus, they won
 The race at Gaza, for his benediction
 O'erpowered all magic; and the people
 shouted

That Christ had conquered Marnas.
 So that art
 Which bears the consecration and the
 seal
 Of holiness upon it will prevail
 Over all others. Those few words of
 yours
 Inspire me with new confidence to
 build.
 What think you? The old walls might
 serve, perhaps,
 Some purpose still. The tower can
 hold the bells.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

If strong enough.

VITTORIA.

If not, it can be strengthened.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I see no bar nor drawback to this
 building,
 And on our homeward way, if it shall
 please you,
 We may together view the site.

VITTORIA.

I thank you.
 I did not venture to request so much.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Let us now go to the old walls you
 spake of,
 Vossignoria —

VITTORIA.

What, again, Maestro?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Pardon me, Messer Claudio, if once
 more
 I use the ancient courtesies of speech.
 I am too old to change.

III

CARDINAL IPPOLITO

SCENE I. — *A richly furnished apart-
 ment in the Palace of CARDINAL
 IPPOLITO. Night.*

JACOPO NARDI, *an old man, alone.*

NARDI.

I am bewildered. These Numidian
 slaves,

In strange attire; these endless ante-
chambers;
This lighted hall, with all its golden
splendors,
Pictures, and statues! Can this be the
dwelling
Of a disciple of that lowly Man
Who had not where to lay his head?
These statues
Are not of Saints; nor is this a Ma-
donna,
This lovely face, that with such
tender eyes
Looks down upon me from the painted
canvas.
My heart begins to fail me. What
can he
Who lives in boundless luxury at
Rome
Care for the imperilled liberties of
Florence,
Her people, her Republic? Ah, the
rich
Feel not the pangs of banishment. All
doors
Are open to them, and all hands ex-
tended.
The poor alone are outcasts; they who
risked
All they possessed for liberty, and
lost;
And wander through the world with-
out a friend,
Sick, comfortless, distressed, unknown,
uncared for.

SCENE II. — JACOPO NARDI; CARDI-
NAL IPPOLITO, *in Spanish cloak and
slouched hat.*

IPPOLITO.

I pray you pardon me if I have kept
you
Waiting so long alone.

NARDI.

I wait to see
The Cardinal.

IPPOLITO.

I am the Cardinal;
And you?

NARDI.

Jacopo Nardi.

IPPOLITO.

You are welcome.
I was expecting you. Philippo
Strozzi
Had told me of your coming.

NARDI.

'T was his son
That brought me to your door.

IPPOLITO.

Pray you, be seated.
You seem astonished at the garb I
wear,
But at my time of life, and with my
habits,
The petticoats of a Cardinal would
be —
Troublesome; I could neither ride nor
walk,
Nor do a thousand things, if I were
dressed
Like an old dowager. It were putting
wine
Young as the young Astyanax into
goblets
As old as Priam.

NARDI.

Oh, your Eminence
Knows best what you should wear.

IPPOLITO.

Dear Messer Nardi,
You are no stranger to me. I have
read
Your excellent translation of the
books
Of Titus Livius, the historian
Of Rome, and model of all historians²⁰
That shall come after him. It does
you honor;
But greater honor still the love you
bear
To Florence, our dear country, and
whose annals
I hope your hand will write, in hap-
pier days
Than we now see.

NARDI.

Your Eminence will pardon
The lateness of the hour.

IPPOLITO.

The hours I count not
As a sun-dial; but am like a clock,

That tells the time as well by night as
day.

So, no excuse. I know what brings
you here.

You come to speak of Florence.

NARDI.

And her woes.

IPPOLITO.

The duke, my cousin, the black Ales-
sandro,

Whose mother was a Moorish slave,
that fed

The sheep upon Lorenzo's farm, still
lives

And reigns.

NARDI.

Alas, that such a scourge
Should fall on such a city!

IPPOLITO.

When he dies,
The Wild Boar in the gardens of
Lorenzo,

The beast obscene, should be the
monument

Of this bad man.

NARDI.

He walks the streets at night
With revellers, insulting honest men.
No house is sacred from his lusts.

The convents
Are turned by him to brothels, and
the honor

Of woman and all ancient pious cus-
toms

Are quite forgotten now. The offices
Of the Priori and Gonfalonieri

Have been abolished. All the magis-
trates

Are now his creatures. Liberty is
dead.

The very memory of all honest living
Is wiped away, and even our Tuscan
tongue

Corrupted to a Lombard dialect.

IPPOLITO.

And, worst of all, his impious hand
has broken

The Martinella, — our great battle bell,
That, sounding through three centu-
ries, has led

The Florentines to victory, — lest its
voice

Should waken in their soul some
memory
Of far-off times of glory.

NARDI.

What a change
Ten little years have made! We all
remember

Those better days, when Niccolà Cap-
poni,

The Gonfaloniere, from the windows
Of the Old Palace, with the blast of
trumpets,

Proclaimed to the inhabitants that
Christ

Was chosen King of Florence; and
already

Christ is dethroned, and slain; and in
his stead

Reigns Lucifer! Alas, alas, for
Florence!

IPPOLITO.

Lilies with lilies, said Savonarola;
Florence and France! But I say
Florence only,

Or only with the Emperor's hand to
help us

In sweeping out the rubbish.

NARDI.

Little hope
Of help is there from him. He has
betrotted

His daughter Margaret to this shame-
less Duke.

What hope have we from such an Em-
peror?

IPPOLITO.

Baccio Valori and Philippo Strozzi,
Once the Duke's friends and intimates,
are with us,

And Cardinals Salvati and Ridolfi.
We shall soon see, then, as Valori says,

Whether the Duke can best spare
honest men,

Or honest men the Duke.

NARDI.

We have determined
To send ambassadors to Spain, and
lay

Our griefs before the Emperor, though
I fear

More than I hope.

IPPOLITO.

The Emperor is busy
 With this new war against the Al-
 gerines,⁸⁰
 And has no time to listen to complaints
 From our ambassadors; nor will I
 trust them,
 But go myself. All is in readiness
 For my departure, and to-morrow
 morning
 I shall go down to Itri, where I meet
 Dante da Castiglione and some others,
 Republicans and fugitives from Flor-
 ence,
 And then take ship at Gaëta, and go
 To join the Emperor in his new cru-
 sade
 Against the Turk. I shall have time
 enough⁹⁰
 And opportunity to plead our cause.

NARDI, *rising*.

It is an inspiration, and I hail it
 As of good omen. May the power
 that sends it
 Bless our beloved country, and restore
 Its banished citizens. The soul of
 Florence
 Is now outside its gates. What lies
 within
 Is but a corpse, corrupted and corrupt-
 ing.
 Heaven help us all. I will not tarry
 longer,
 For you have need of rest. Good-
 night.

IPPOLITO.

Good-night!

SCENE III. — CARDINAL IPPOLITO;
 FRA SEBASTIANO; *Turkish attend-
 ants.*

IPPOLITO.

Fra Bastiano, how your portly pre-
 sence
 Contrasts with that of the spare Flor-
 entine
 Who has just left me!

FRA SEBASTIANO.

As we passed each other,
 I saw that he was weeping.

IPPOLITO.

Poor old man!

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Who is he?

IPPOLITO.

Jacopo Nardi. A brave soul;
 One of the Fuorusciti, and the best
 And noblest of them all; but he has
 made me
 Sad with his sadness. As I look on
 you
 My heart grows lighter. I behold a
 man
 Who lives in an ideal world, apart¹⁰
 From all the rude collisions of our
 life,
 In a calm atmosphere.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Your Eminence
 Is surely jesting. If you knew the
 life
 Of artists as I know it, you might
 think
 Far otherwise.

IPPOLITO.

But wherefore should I jest?
 The world of art is an ideal world, —
 The world I love, and that I fain
 would live in;
 So speak to me of artists and of art,
 Of all the painters, sculptors, and mu-
 sicians¹⁵
 That now illustrate Rome.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Of the musicians,
 I know but Goudimel, the brave maes-
 tro
 And chapel-master of his Holiness,
 Who trains the Papal choir.

IPPOLITO.

In church, this morning,
 I listened to a mass of Goudimel,
 Divinely chanted. In the Incarnatus,
 In lieu of Latin words, the tenor sang
 With infinite tenderness, in plain
 Italian,
 A Neapolitan love-song.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

You amaze me.
 Was it a wanton song?

IPPOLITO.

Not a divine one

I am not over-scrupulous, as you
 know,³⁰
 In word or deed, yet such a song as
 that,
 Sung by the tenor of the Papal choir,
 And in a Papal mass, seemed out of
 place;
 There 's something wrong in it.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

There 's something wrong
 In everything. We cannot make the
 world
 Go right. 'T is not my business to
 reform
 The Papal choir.

IPPOLITO.

Nor mine, thank Heaven!
 Then tell me of the artists.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Naming one
 I name them all; for there is only one:
 His name is Messer Michael Angelo.⁴⁰
 All art and artists of the present day
 Centre in him.

IPPOLITO.

You count yourself as nothing?

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Or less than nothing, since I am at
 best
 Only a portrait-painter; one who
 draws
 With greater or less skill, as best he
 may,
 The features of a face.

IPPOLITO.

And you have had
 The honor, nay, the glory, of portray-
 ing
 Julia Gonzaga! Do you count as
 nothing
 A privilege like that? See there the
 portrait
 Rebuking you with its divine expres-
 sion.⁵⁰
 Are you not penitent? He whose
 skilful hand
 Painted that lovely picture has not
 right
 To vilipend the art of portrait-paint-
 ing.
 But what of Michael Angelo?

FRA SEBASTIANO.

But lately
 Strolling together down the crowded
 Corso,
 We stopped, well pleased, to see your
 Eminence
 Pass on an Arab steed, a noble crea-
 ture,
 Which Michael Angelo, who is a lover
 Of all things beautiful, and especially
 When they are Arab horses, much ad-
 mired,⁶⁰
 And could not praise enough.

IPPOLITO, to an attendant.

Hassan, to-morrow,
 When I am gone, but not till I am
 gone, —
 Be careful about that, — take Barba-
 rossa
 To Messer Michael Angelo the sculp-
 tor,
 Who lives there at Macello dei Corvi,
 Near to the Capitol; and take besides
 Some ten mule-loads of provender,
 and say
 Your master sends them to him as a
 present.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

A princely gift. Though Michael
 Angelo
 Refuses presents from his Holiness,⁷⁰
 Yours he will not refuse.

IPPOLITO.

You think him like
 Thymœtes, who received the wooden
 horse
 Into the walls of Troy. That book of
 Virgil
 Have I translated in Italian verse,
 And shall, some day, when we have
 leisure for it,
 Be pleased to read you. When I speak
 of Troy
 I am reminded of another town
 And of a lovelier Helen, our dear
 Countess
 Julia Gonzaga. You remember, surely,
 The adventure with the corsair Barba-
 rossa,⁸⁰
 And all that followed?

FRA SEBASTIANO.

A most strange adventure;

A tale as marvellous and full of wonder
As any in Boccaccio or Sacchetti;
Almost incredible!

IPPOLITO.

Were I a painter
I should not want a better theme than
that:
The lovely lady fleeing through the
night
In wild disorder; and the brigands'
camp
With the red fire-light on their swarthy
faces.
Could you not paint it for me?

FRA SEBASTIANO.

No, not I.

It is not in my line.

IPPOLITO.

Then you shall paint
The portrait of the corsair, when we
bring him
A prisoner chained to Naples; for I
feel
Something like admiration for a man
Who dared this strange adventure.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

I will do it.

But catch the corsair first.

IPPOLITO.

You may begin
To-morrow with the sword. Hassan,
come hither;
Bring me the Turkish scimitar that
hangs
Beneath the picture yonder. Now un-
sheathe it.
'T is a Damascus blade; you see 'is
inscription
In Arabic: *La Allah! illa Allah!*—
There is no God but God.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

How beautiful
In fashion and in finish! It is perfect.
The Arsenal of Venice cannot boast
A finer sword.

IPPOLITO.

You like it? It is yours

FRA SEBASTIANO.

You do not mean it.

IPPOLITO.

I am not a Spaniard,
To say that it is yours and not to
mean it.

I have at Itri a whole armory
Full of such weapons. When you
paint the portrait
Of Barbarossa, it will be of use.
You have not been rewarded as you
should be¹¹⁰
For painting the Gonzaga. Throw
this bauble
Into the scale, and make the balance
equal.
Till then suspend it in your studio;
You artists like such trifles.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

I will keep it
In memory of the donor. Many
thanks.

IPPOLITO.

Fra Bastian, I am growing tired of
Rome,
The old dead city, with the old dead
people;
Priests everywhere, like shadows on a
wall,
And morning, noon, and night the
ceaseless sound
Of convent bells. I must be gone
from here;¹²⁰
Though Ovid somewhere says that
Rome is worthy
To be the dwelling-place of all the
Gods,
I must be gone from here. To-morrow
morning
I start for Itri, and go thence by sea
To join the Emperor, who is making
war
Upon the Algerines; perhaps to sink
Some Turkish galleys, and bring back
in chains
The famous corsair. Thus would I
avenge
The beautiful Gonzaga.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

An achievement
Worthy of Charlemagne, or of Or-
lando.¹³⁰
Berni and Ariosto both shall add
A canto to their poems, and describe
you

As Furioso and Innamorato.
Now I must say good-night.

IPPOLITO.

You must not go;
First you shall sup with me. My
seneschal,
Giovan Andrea dal Borgo a San Se-
polcro, —
I like to give the whole sonorous name,
It sounds so like a verse of the
Æneid, —
Has brought me eels fresh from the
Lake of Fondi,
And Lucrine oysters cradled in their
shells;¹⁴⁰
These, with red Fondi wine, the Cæ-
cuban
That Horace speaks of, under a hun-
dred keys
Kept safe, until the heir of Posthu-
mus
Shall stain the pavement with it,
make a feast
Fit for Lucullus; or Fra Bastian even;
So we will go to supper, and be merry.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Beware! Remember that Bolsena's
eels
And Vernage wine once killed a Pope
of Rome!

IPPOLITO.

'T was a French Pope; and then so
long ago;
Who knows? — perhaps the story is
not true.¹⁵⁰

IV

BORGO DELLE VERGINE AT NAPLES

Room in the Palace of JULIA GONZAGA.
Night. JULIA GONZAGA, GIOVANNI
VALDESSO.

JULIA.

Do not go yet.

VALDESSO.

The night is far advanced;
I fear to stay too late, and weary you
With these discussions.

JULIA.

I have much to say

I speak to you, Valdesso, with that
frankness
Which is the greatest privilege of
friendship, —
Speak as I hardly would to my con-
fessor,
Such is my confidence in you.

VALDESSO.

Dear Countess,
If loyalty to friendship be a claim
Upon your confidence, then I may
claim it. 9

JULIA.

Then sit again, and listen unto things
That nearer are to me than life itself.

VALDESSO.

In all things I am happy to obey you,
And happiest then when you com-
mand me most.

JULIA.

Laying aside all useless rhetoric,
That is superfluous between us two,
I come at once unto the point, and
say
You know my outward life, my rank
and fortune :
Countess of Fondi, Duchess of Tra-
jetto,
A widow rich and flattered, for whose
hand
In marriage princes ask, and ask it
only 20
To be rejected. All the world can
offer
Lies at my feet. If I remind you of it
It is not in the way of idle boasting,
But only to the better understanding
Of what comes after.

VALDESSO.

God hath given you also
Beauty and intellect; and the signal
grace
To lead a spotless life amid tempta-
tions
That others yield to.

JULIA.

But the inward life, —
That you know not; 't is known but
to myself,
And is to me a mystery and a pain : 30

A soul disquieted and ill at ease,
A mind perplexed with doubts and
apprehensions,
A heart dissatisfied with all around
me,
And with myself, so that sometimes I
weep,
Discouraged and disgusted with the
world.

VALDESSO.

Whene'er we cross a river at a ford,
If we would pass in safety, we must
keep
Our eyes fixed steadfast on the shore
beyond,
For if we cast them on the flowing
stream,
The head swims with it; so if we
would cross 40
The running flood of things here in
the world,
Our souls must not look down, but fix
their sight
On the firm land beyond.

JULIA.

I comprehend you.
You think I am too worldly; that my
head
Swims with the giddy whirl of life
about me.
Is that your meaning?

VALDESSO.

Yes; your meditations
Are more of this world and its vanities
Than of the world to come.

JULIA.

Between the two
I am confused.

VALDESSO.

Yet have I seen you listen
Enraptured when Fra Bernardino
preached 50
Of faith and hope and charity.

JULIA.

I listen,
But only as to music without meaning.
It moves me for the moment, and I
think
How beautiful it is to be a saint,
As dear Vittoria is; but I am weak

And wayward, and I soon fall back
again
To my old ways, so very easily.
There are too many week-days for one
Sunday.

VALDESSO.

Then take the Sunday with you
through the week, 59
And sweeten with it all the other days.

JULIA.

In part I do so; for to put a stop
To idle tongues, what men might say
of me
If I lived all alone here in my palace,
And not from a vocation that I feel
For the monastic life, I now am living
With Sister Caterina at the convent
Of Santa Chiara, and I come here only
On certain days, for my affairs, or
visits
Of ceremony, or to be with friends.
For I confess, to live among my
friends 70
Is Paradise to me; my Purgatory
Is living among people I dislike.
And so I pass my life in these two
worlds,
This palace and the convent.

VALDESSO.

It was then
The fear of man, and not the love of
God,
That led you to this step. Why will
you not
Renounce the world, and give your
heart to God,¹

JULIA.

If God so commands it,
Wherefore hath He not made me capa-
ble 79
Of doing for Him what I wish to do
As easily as I could offer Him.
This jewel from my hand, this gown
I wear,
Or aught else that is mine?

VALDESSO.

The hindrance lies
In that original sin, by which all fell.

¹ For some unexplained reason, the sentence has been left incomplete; apparently the omission was not more than a half line.

JULIA.

Ah me, I cannot bring my troubled
mind
To wish well to that Adam, our first
parent,
Who by his sin lost Paradise for us,
And brought such ills upon us.

VALDESSO.

We ourselves,
When we commit a sin, lose Paradise,
As much as he did. Let us think of
this, 90
And how we may regain it.

JULIA.

Teach me, then,
To harmonize the discord of my life,
And stop the painful jangle of these
wires.

VALDESSO.

That is a task impossible, until
You tune your heart-strings to a higher
key
Than earthly melodies.

JULIA.

How shall I do it?
Point out to me the way of this per-
fection,
And I will follow you; for you have
made
My soul enamored with it, and I can-
not
Rest satisfied until I find it out. 100
But lead me privately, so that the
world
Hear not my steps; I would not give
occasion
For talk among the people.

VALDESSO.

Now at last
I understand you fully. Then, what
need
Is there for us to beat about the bush?
I know what you desire of me.

JULIA.

What rudeness!
If you already know it, why not tell
me?

VALDESSO.

Because I rather wait for you to ask it
With your own lips.

JULIA.

Do me the kindness, then,
To speak without reserve; and with
all frankness, ¹¹⁰
If you divine the truth, will I confess
it.

VALDESSO.

I am content.

JULIA.

Then speak.

VALDESSO.

You would be free
From the vexatious thoughts that
come and go
Through your imagination, and would
have me
Point out some royal road and lady-
like
Which you may walk in, and not
wound your feet.
You would attain to the divine per-
fection,
And yet not turn your back upon the
world;
You would possess humility within,
But not reveal it in your outward ac-
tions; ¹²⁰
You would have patience, but with-
out the rude
Occasions that require its exercise;
You would despise the world, but in
such fashion
The world should not despise you in
return;
Would clothe the soul with all the
Christian graces,
Yet not despoil the body of its
gauds;
Would feed the soul with spiritual
food,
Yet not deprive the body of its feasts;
Would seem angelic in the sight of
God,
Yet not too saint-like in the eyes of
men; ¹³⁰
In short, would lead a holy Christian
life
In such a way that even your nearest
friend
Would not detect therein one circum-
stance
To show a change from what it was
before.
Have I divined your secret?

JULIA.

You have drawn
The portrait of my inner self as truly
As the most skilful painter ever
painted
A human face.

VALDESSO.

This warrants me in saying
You think you can win heaven by
compromise, ¹³⁹
And not by verdict.

JULIA.

You have often told me
That a bad compromise was better
even
Than a good verdict.

VALDESSO.

Yes, in suits at law;
Not in religion. With the human soul
There is no compromise. By faith
alone
Can man be justified.

JULIA.

Hush, dear Valdesso;
That is a heresy. Do not, I pray you,
Proclaim it from the house-top, but
preserve it
As something precious, hidden in
your heart,
As I, who half believe and tremble at
it. ¹⁴⁹

VALDESSO.

I must proclaim the truth.

JULIA.

Enthusiast!
Why must you? You imperil both
yourself
And friends by your imprudence.
Pray be patient.
You have occasion now to show that
virtue
Which you lay stress upon. Let us
return
To our lost pathway. Show me by
what steps
I shall walk in it.

[Convent bells are heard.]

VALDESSO.

Hark! the convent bells
Are ringing; it is midnight; I must
leave you.

And yet I linger. Pardon me, dear
Countess,
Since you to-night have made me your
confessor,
If I so far may venture, I will warn
you 160
Upon one point.

JULIA.

What is it? Speak, I pray you,
For I have no concealments in my
conduct;
All is as open as the light of day.
What is it you would warn me of?

VALDESSO.

Your friendship
With Cardinal Ippolito.

JULIA.

What is there
To cause suspicion or alarm in that,
More than in friendships that I enter-
tain
With you and others? I ne'er sat
with him
Alone at night, as I am sitting now
With you, Valdesso.

VALDESSO.

Pardon me; the portrait
That Fra Bastiano painted was for him.
Is that quite prudent?

JULIA.

That is the same question
Vittoria put to me, when I last saw
her.
I make you the same answer. That
was not
A pledge of love, but of pure grati-
tude.
Recall the adventure of that dreadful
night
When Barbarossa with two thousand
Moors
Landed upon the coast, and in the
darkness
Attacked my castle. Then, without
delay,
The Cardinal came hurrying down
from Rome 180
To rescue and protect me. Was it
wrong
That in an hour like that I did not
weigh

Too nicely this or that, but granted
him
A boon that pleased him, and that
flattered me?

VALDESSO.

Only beware lest, in disguise of friend-
ship,
Another corsair, worse than Barba-
rossa,
Steal in and seize the castle, not by
storm
But strategy. And now I take my
leave.

JULIA.

Farewell; but ere you go, look forth
and see
How night hath hushed the clamor
and the stir 190
Of the tumultuous streets. The cloud-
less moon
Roofs the whole city as with tiles of
silver;
The dim, mysterious sea in silence
sleeps,
And straight into the air Vesuvius
lifts
His plume of smoke. How beautiful
it is!

[Voices in the street.

GIOVAN ANDREA.

Poisoned at Itri.

ANOTHER VOICE.

Poisoned? Who is poisoned?

GIOVAN ANDREA.

The Cardinal Ippolito, my master.
Call it malaria. It was very sudden.
[Julia swoons.

V

VITTORIA COLONNA

A room in the Torre Argentina.

VITTORIA COLONNA and JULIA GON-
ZAGA.

VITTORIA.

Come to my arms and to my heart
once more;
My soul goes out to meet you and
embrace you.

. . . "Vesuvius lifts
His plume of smoke"

For we are of the sisterhood of sorrow.
I know what you have suffered,

JULIA.

Name it not.

Let me forget it.

VITTORIA.

I will say no more.

Let me look at you. What a joy it is
To see your face, to hear your voice
again!

You bring with you a breath as of the
morn,

A memory of the far-off happy days
When we were young. When did you
come from Fondi ?

JULIA.

I have not been at Fondi since —

VITTORIA.

Ah me!

You need not speak the word; I un-
derstand you.

JULIA.

I came from Naples by the lovely
valley,
The Terra di Lavoro.

VITTORIA.

And you find me

But just returned from a long journey
northward.

I have been staying with that noble
woman,

Renée of France, the Duchess of Fer-
rara.

JULIA.

Oh, tell me of the Duchess. I have
heard

Flaminio speak her praises with such
warmth

That I am eager to hear more of her
And of her brilliant court.

VITTORIA.

You shall hear all.

But first sit down and listen patiently
While I confess myself.

JULIA.

What deadly sin
Have you committed?

VITTORIA.

Not a sin; a folly.
I chid you once at Ischia, when you
told me
That brave Fra Bastian was to paint
your portrait.

JULIA.

Well I remember it.

VITTORIA.

Then chide me now,
For I confess to something still more
strange.
Old as I am, I have at last consented
To the entreaties and the supplica-
tions
Of Michael Angelo — ³⁰

JULIA.

To marry him?

VITTORIA.

I pray you, do not jest with me! You
know,
Or you should know, that never such
a thought
Entered my breast. I am already
married.
The Marquis of Pescara is my hus-
band,
And death has not divorced us.

JULIA.

Pardon me.
Have I offended you?

VITTORIA.

No, but have hurt me.
Unto my buried lord I give myself,
Unto my friend the shadow of myself,
My portrait. It is not from vanity, ⁴⁰
But for the love I bear him.

JULIA.

I rejoice
To hear these words. Oh, this will be
a portrait
Worthy of both of you! [*A knock.*

VITTORIA.

Hark! he is coming

JULIA.

And shall I go or stay?

VITTORIA.

By all means, stay
The drawing will be better for your
presence;
You will enliven me.

JULIA.

I shall not speak.
The presence of great men doth take
from me
All power of speech. I only gaze at
them
In silent wonder, as if they were gods,
Or the inhabitants of some other
planet. ⁵⁰

Enter MICHAEL ANGELO.

VITTORIA.

Come in.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I fear my visit is ill-timed;
I interrupt you.

VITTORIA.

No; this is a friend
Of yours as well as mine, — the Lady
Julia,
The Duchess of Trajetto.

MICHAEL ANGELO *to* JULIA.

I salute you.
'T is long since I have seen your face,
my lady;
Pardon me if I say that having seen
it,
One never can forget it.

JULIA.

You are kind
To keep me in your memory.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

It is
The privilege of age to speak with
frankness.
You will not be offended when I say ⁶⁰
That never was your beauty more
divine.

JULIA.

When Michael Angelo condescends to
flatter
Or praise me, I am proud, and not of-
fended.

VITTORIA.

Now this is gallantry enough for one;
Show me a little.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ah, my gracious lady,
You know I have not words to speak
your praise.
I think of you in silence. You con-
ceal
Your manifold perfections from all
eyes,
And make yourself more saint-like
day by day,
And day by day men worship you the
more.

70

But now your hour of martyrdom has
come.
You know why I am here.

VITTORIA.

Ah yes, I know it;
And meet my fate with fortitude.
You find me
Surrounded by the labors of your
hands:
The Woman of Samaria at the Well,
The Mater Dolorosa, and the Christ
Upon the Cross, beneath which you
have written
Those memorable words of Alighieri,
"Men have forgotten how much blood
it costs."

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And now I come to add one labor
more.

80

If you will call that labor which is
pleasure,
And only pleasure.

VITTORIA.

How shall I be seated ?

MICHAEL ANGELO, *opening his portfolio.*

Just as you are. The light falls well
upon you.

VITTORIA.

I am ashamed to steal the time from
you
That should be given to the Sistine
Chapel.
How does that work go on ?

MICHAEL ANGELO, *drawing.*

But tardily,
Old men work slowly. Brain and
hand alike
Are dull and torpid. To die young is
best,
And not to be remembered as old
men
Tottering about in their decrepitude. 90

VITTORIA.

My dear Maestro! have you, then, for-
gotten
The story of Sophocles in his old age?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

What story is it ?

VITTORIA.

When his sons accused him,
Before the Areopagus, of dotage,
For all defence, he read there to his
Judges
The Tragedy of Œdipus Coloneus, —
The work of his old age.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

'T is an illusion,
A fabulous story, that will lead old
men
Into a thousand follies and conceits.

VITTORIA.

So you may show to cavillers your
painting 100
Of the Last Judgment in the Sistine
Chapel.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Now you and Lady Julia shall re-
sume

The conversation that I interrupted.

VITTORIA.

It was of no great import; nothing
more
Nor less than my late visit to Ferrara,
And what I saw there in the ducal
palace.

Will it not interrupt you ?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Not the least.

VITTORIA.

Well, first, then, of Duke Ercole: a
man
Cold in his manners, and reserved and
silent,
And yet magnificent in all his ways; 110
Not hospitable unto new ideas,
But from state policy, and certain
reasons
Concerning the investiture of the
duchy,
A partisan of Rome, and consequently
Intolerant of all the new opinions.

JULIA.

I should not like the Duke. These
silent men,
Who only look and listen, are like
wells
That have no water in them, deep and
empty.
How could the daughter of a king of
France 119
Wed such a duke ?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The men that women marry,
And why they marry them, will always
be
A marvel and a mystery to the world.

VITTORIA.

And then the Duchess, — how shall I
describe her,
Or tell the merits of that happy nature
Which pleases most when least it
thinks of pleasing ?
Not beautiful, perhaps, in form and
feature,
Yet with an inward beauty, that
shines through

Vittoria Colonna

Each look and attitude and word and
gesture;

A kindly grace of manner and be-
havior,

A something in her presence and her
ways

That makes her beautiful beyond the
reach

Of mere external beauty; and in
heart

So noble and devoted to the truth,
And so in sympathy with all who

strive
After the higher life.

JULIA.

She draws me to her
As much as her Duke Ercole repels me.

VITTORIA.

Then the devout and honorable women
That grace her court, and make it
good to be there;

Francesca Bucyronia, the true-hearted,
Lavinia della Rovere and the Or-
sini.

The Magdalena and the Cherubina,
And Anne de Parthenai, who sings so
sweetly;

All lovely women, full of noble
thoughts
And aspirations after noble things.

JULIA.

Boccaccio would have envied you such
dames.

VITTORIA.

No; his Fiammettas and his Philo-
menas
Are fitter company for Ser Giovanni;
I fear he hardly would have compre-
hended
The women that I speak of.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Yet he wrote
The story of Griseldis. That is some-
thing
To set down in his favor. ¹⁵⁰

VITTORIA.

With these ladies
Was a young girl, Olympia Morata,
Daughter of Fulvio, the learned
scholar,
Famous in all the universities:
A marvellous child, who at the spin-
ning-wheel,
And in the daily round of household
cares,
Hath learned both Greek and Latin;
and is now
A favorite of the Duchess and com-
panion
Of Princess Anne. This beautiful
young Sappho ¹⁵⁹
Sometimes recited to us Grecian odes
That she had written, with a voice
whose sadness
Thrilled and o'ermastered me, and
made me look
Into the future time, and ask myself
What destiny will be hers.

JULIA.

A sad one, surely.
Frost kills the flowers that blossom out
of season;
And these precocious intellects por-
tend
A life of sorrow or an early death.

VITTORIA.

About the court were many learned
men:

Chilian Sinapius from beyond the
Alps,
And Celio Curione, and Manzolli, ¹⁷⁰
The Duke's physician; and a pale
young man,
Charles d'Espeville of Geneva, whom
the Duchess
Doth much delight to talk with and to
read:
For he hath written a book of Insti-
tutes
The Duchess greatly praises, though
some call it
The Koran of the heretics.

JULIA.

And what poets
Were there to sing you madrigals, and
praise
Olympia's eyes and Cherubina's tres-
ses?

VITTORIA.

None; for great Ariosto is no more.
The voice that filled those halls with
melody ¹⁸⁰
Has long been hushed in death.

JULIA.

You should have made
A pilgrimage unto the poet's tomb,
And laid a wreath upon it, for the
words
He spake of you.

VITTORIA.

And of yourself no less,
And of our master, Michael Angelo.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Of me?

VITTORIA.

Have you forgotten that he calls you
Michael, less man than angel, and
divine?
You are ungrateful.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

A mere play on words.
That adjective he wanted for a rhyme,
To match with Gian Bellino and Ur-
bino. ¹⁹⁰

VITTORIA.

Bernardo Tasso is no longer there,
Nor the gay troubadour of Gascony,
Clement Marot, surnamed by flatterers

The Prince of Poets and the Poet of
Princes,
Who, being looked upon with much
disfavor
By the Duke Ercole, has fled to Venice.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

There let him stay with Pietro Are-
tino,
The Scourge of Princes, also called
Divine.
The title is so common in our mouths,
That even the Pifferari of Abruzzi, ²⁰⁰
Who play their bag-pipes in the streets
of Rome
At the Epiphany, will bear it soon,
And will deserve it better than some
poets.

VITTORIA.

What bee hath stung you?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

One that makes no honey;
One that comes buzzing in through
every window,
And stabs men with his sting. A
bitter thought
Passed through my mind, but it is
gone again;
I spake too hastily.

JULIA.

I pray you, show me
What you have done.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Not yet; it is not finished.

PART SECOND

I

MONOLOGUE

A room in MICHAEL ANGELO's house.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Fled to Viterbo, the old Papal city
Where once an Emperor, humbled in
his pride,
Held the Pope's stirrup, as his Holi-
ness
Alighted from his mule! A fugitive
From Cardinal Caraffa's hate, who
hurls

His thunders at the house of the Co-
lonna,
With endless bitterness! — Among the
nuns
In Santa Caterina's convent hidden,
Herself in soul a nun! And now she
chides me
For my too frequent letters, that dis-
turb ¹⁰
Her meditations, and that hinder me
And keep me from my work; now
graciously
She thanks me for the crucifix I sent
her,
And says that she will keep it: with
one hand
Inflicts a wound, and with the other
heals it. [Reading.

"Profoundly I believed that God
would grant you
A supernatural faith to paint this
Christ;
I wished for that which now I see
fulfilled
So marvellously, exceeding all my
wishes.
Nor more could be desired, or even so
much. ²⁰
And greatly I rejoice that you have
made
The angel on the right so beautiful;
For the Archangel Michael will place
you,
You, Michael Angelo, on that new
day,
Upon the Lord's right hand! And
waiting that,
How can I better serve you than to
pray
To this sweet Christ for you, and to
beseech you
To hold me altogether yours in all
things."

Well, I will write less often, or no
more,
But wait her coming. No one born in
Rome ³⁰
Can live elsewhere; but he must pine
for Rome,
And must return to it. I, who am
born
And bred a Tuscan and a Floren-
tine,
Feel the attraction, and I linger here

As if I were a pebble in the pavement
Trodden by priestly feet. This I en-
dure,
Because I breathe in Rome an atmos-
phere
Heavy with odors of the laurel leaves
That crowned great heroes of the
sword and pen,
In ages past. I feel myself exalted ⁴⁰
To walk the streets in which a Virgil
walked,
Or Trajan rode in triumph; but far
more,
And most of all, because the great Co-
lonna
Breathes the same air I breathe, and
is to me
An inspiration. Now that she is gone,
Rome is no longer Rome till she re-
turn.
This feeling overmasters me. I know
not
If it be love, this strong desire to be
Forever in her presence; but I know
That I, who was the friend of soli-
tude, ⁵⁰
And ever was best pleased when most
alone,
Now weary grow of my own com-
pany.
For the first time old age seems lonely
to me.

[Opening the Divina Commedia.]

I turn for consolation to the leaves
Of the great master of our Tuscan
tongue,
Whose words, like colored garnet-shirls
in lava,
Betray the heat in which they were
engendered.
A mendicant, he ate the bitter bread
Of others, but repaid their meagre
gifts ⁵⁹
With immortality. In courts of princes
He was a by-word, and in streets of
towns
Was mocked by children, like the
Hebrew prophet,
Himself a prophet. I too know the cry,
Go up, thou bald head! from a genera-
tion
That, wanting reverence, wanteth the
best food
The soul can feed on. There's not
room enough

For age and youth upon this little
planet.
Age must give way. There was not
room enough
Even for this great poet. In his song
I hear reverberate the gates of Flor-
ence, ⁷⁰
Closing upon him, never more to
open;
But mingled with the sound are melo-
dies
Celestial from the gates of paradise
He came and he is gone. The people
knew not
What manner of man was passing by
their doors,
Until he passed no more; but in his
vision
He saw the torments and beatitudes
Of souls condemned or pardoned, and
hath left
Behind him this sublime Apocalypse.

I strive in vain to draw here on the
margin ⁸⁰
The face of Beatrice. It is not hers,
But the Colonna's. Each hath his
ideal,
The image of some woman excellent,
That is his guide. No Grecian art,
nor Roman,
Hath yet revealed such loveliness as
hers.

II

VITERBO

VITTORIA COLONNA *at the convent win-
dow*

VITTORIA.

Parting with friends is temporary
death,
As all death is. We see no more their
faces,
Nor hear their voices, save in memory.
But messages of love give us assurance
That we are not forgotten. Who shall
say
That from the world of spirits comes
no greeting,
No message of remembrance? It may
be
The thoughts that visit us, we know
not whence,

Sudden as inspiration, are the whis-
pers
Of disembodied spirits, speaking to
us¹⁰
As friends, who wait outside a prison
wall,
Through the barred windows speak to
those within. [A pause.
As quiet as the lake that lies beneath
me,
As quiet as the tranquil sky above
me,
As quiet as a heart that beats no more,
This convent seems. Above, below,
all peace!
Silence and solitude, the soul's best
friends,
Are with me here, and the tumultuous
world
Makes no more noise than the remot-
est planet. [A pause.
O gentle spirit, unto the third cir-
cle²⁰
Of heaven among the blessed souls as-
cended,
Who, living in the faith and dying for
it,
Have gone to their reward, I do not
sigh
For thee as being dead, but for my-
self
That I am still alive. Turn those
dear eyes,
Once so benignant to me, upon mine,
That open to their tears such uncon-
trolled
And such continual issue. Still awhile
Have patience; I will come to thee at
last.
A few more goings in and out these
doors,³⁰
A few more chimings of these convent
bells,
A few more prayers, a few more sighs
and tears,
And the long agony of this life will
end.
And I shall be with thee. If I am
wanting
To thy well-being, as thou art to
mine,
Have patience; I will come to thee at
last.
Ye winds that loiter in these cloister
gardens,
Or wander far above the city walls,

Bear unto him this message, that I
ever
Or speak or think of him, or weep for
him.⁴⁰

By unseen hands uplifted in the light
Of sunset, yonder solitary cloud
Floats, with its white apparel blown
abroad,
And wafted up to heaven. It fades
away,
And melts into the air. Ah, would
that I
Could thus be wafted unto thee, Fran-
cesco,
A cloud of white, an incorporeal
spirit!

III

MICHAEL ANGELO AND BENVENUTO
CELLINI

SCENE I. — MICHAEL ANGELO ; BEN-
VENUTO CELLINI *in gay attire.*

BENVENUTO.

A good day and good year to the
divine
Maestro Michael Angelo, the sculptor!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Welcome, my Benvenuto.

BENVENUTO.

That is what
My father said, the first time he be-
held
This handsome face. But say fare-
well, not welcome.
I come to take my leave. I start for
Florence
As fast as horse can carry me. I long
To set once more upon its level flags
These feet, made sore by your vile
Roman pavements.
Come with me; you are wanted there
in Florence.¹⁰
The Sacristy is not finished.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Speak not of it!
How damp and cold it was! How my
bones ached
And my head reeled, when I was
working there!
I am too old. I will stay here in Rome,

Where all is old and crumbling, like
myself,
To hopeless ruin. All roads lead to
Rome.

BENVENUTO.

And all lead out of it.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

There is a charm,
A certain something in the atmos-
phere,
That all men feel, and no man can de-
scribe. ¹⁹

BENVENUTO.

Malaria?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Yes, malaria of the mind.
Out of this tomb of the majestic
Past;
The fever to accomplish some great
work
That will not let us sleep. I must go
on
Until I die.

BENVENUTO.

Do you ne'er think of Florence?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Yes; whenever
I think of anything beside my work,
I think of Florence. I remember, too,
The bitter days I passed among the
quarries
Of Seravezza and Pietrasanta;
Road-building in the marshes; stupid
people, ³⁰
And cold and rain incessant, and mad
gusts
Of mountain wind, like howling Der-
vishes,
That spun and whirled the eddying
snow about them
As if it were a garment; aye, vexa-
tions
And troubles of all kinds, that ended
only
In loss of time and money.

BENVENUTO.

True, Maestro;

But that was not in Florence. You
 should leave
 Such work to others. Sweeter memo-
 ries³⁸
 Cluster about you, in the pleasant city
 Upon the Arno.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

In my waking dreams
 I see the marvellous dome of Brunel-
 leschi,
 Ghiberti's gates of bronze, and Giot-
 to's tower;
 And Ghirlandajo's lovely Benci glides
 With folded hands amid my troubled
 thoughts,
 A splendid vision! Time rides with
 the old
 At a great pace. As travellers on
 swift steeds
 See the near landscape fly and flow
 behind them,
 While the remoter fields and dim hori-
 zons
 Go with them, and seem wheeling
 round to meet them,⁴⁹
 So in old age things near us slip away,
 And distant things go with us. Plea-
 santly
 Come back to me the days when, as a
 youth,
 I walked with Ghirlandajo in the gar-
 dens
 Of Medici, and saw the antique statues,
 The forms august of gods and godlike
 men,
 And the great world of art revealed
 itself
 To my young eyes. Then all that
 man hath done
 Seemed possible to me. Alas! how
 little
 Of all I dreamed of has my hand
 achieved!

BENVENUTO.

Nay, let the Night and Morning, let
 Lorenzo⁶⁰
 And Julian in the Sacristy at Florence,
 Prophets and Sibyls in the Sistine
 Chapel,
 And the Last Judgment answer. Is
 it finished?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The work is nearly done. But this
 Last Judgment

Has been the cause of more vexation
 to me
 Than it will be of honor. Ser Biagio,
 Master of ceremonies at the Papal
 court,
 A man punctilious and over nice,
 Calls it improper; says that those
 nude forms,
 Showing their nakedness in such
 shameless fashion,⁷⁰
 Are better suited to a common bagnio.
 Or wayside wine-shop, than a Papal
 Chapel.
 To punish him I painted him as Minos
 And leave him there as master of cere-
 monies
 In the Infernal Regions. What would
 you
 Have done to such a man?

BENVENUTO.

I would have killed him.
 When any one insults me, if I can
 I kill him, kill him.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Oh, you gentlemen,
 Who dress in silks and velvets, and
 wear swords,
 Are ready with your weapons, and
 have all⁸⁰
 A taste for homicide.

BENVENUTO.

I learned that lesson
 Under Pope Clement at the siege of
 Rome,
 Some twenty years ago. As I was
 standing
 Upon the ramparts of the Campo Santo
 With Alessandro Bene, I beheld
 A sea of fog, that covered all the plain,
 And hid from us the foe; when sud-
 denly,
 A misty figure, like an apparition,
 Rose up above the fog, as if on horse-
 back.
 At this I aimed my arquebus, and
 fired.⁹⁰
 The figure vanished; and there rose a
 cry
 Out of the darkness, long and fierce
 and loud.
 With imprecations in all languages.
 It was the Constable of France, the
 Bourbon,
 That I had slain.

" . . . firing at him with due aim and range "

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Rome should be grateful to you.

BENVENUTO.

But has not been ; you shall hear presently.

During the siege I served as bombardier,

There in St. Angelo. His Holiness
One day was walking with his Cardinals

On the round bastion, while I stood
above

Among my falconets. All thought
and feeling,

All skill in art and all desire of fame,
Were swallowed up in the delightful
music

Of that artillery. I saw far off,
Within the enemy's trenches on the
Prati,

A Spanish cavalier in scarlet cloak ;
And firing at him with due aim and
range,

I cut the gay Hidalgo in two pieces.
The eyes are dry that wept for him in
Spain.

His Holiness, delighted beyond measure

With such display of gunnery, and
amazed

To see the man in scarlet cut in two,
Gave me his benediction, and absolved me

From all the homicides I had committed

In service of the Apostolic Church,
Or should commit thereafter. From
that day

I have not held in very high esteem
The life of man.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And who absolved Pope Clement ?
Now let us speak of Art.

BENVENUTO.

Of what you will.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Say, have you seen our friend Fra
Bastian lately,

Since by a turn of fortune he became
Friar of the Signet ?

BENVENUTO.

Faith, a pretty artist
To pass his days in stamping leaden
seals

On Papal bulls!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

He has grown fat and lazy.

As if the lead clung to him like a
sinker.

He paints no more since he was sent
to Fondi

By Cardinal Ippolito to paint

The fair Gonzaga. Ah, you should
have seen him

As I did, riding through the city gate,
In his brown hood, attended by four
horsemen, ¹³⁰

Completely armed, to frighten the ban-
ditti.

I think he would have frightened them
alone,

For he was rounder than the O of
Giotto.

BENVENUTO.

He must have looked more like a sack
of meal

Than a great painter.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Well, he is not great,
But still I like him greatly. Benve-
nuto,

Have faith in nothing but in industry.
Be at it late and early; persevere,

And work right on through censure
and applause, ¹³⁹

Or else abandon Art.

BENVENUTO.

No man works harder
Than I do. I am not a moment idle.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And what have you to show me?

BENVENUTO.

This gold ring,
Made for his Holiness, — my latest
work,

And I am proud of it. A single dia-
mond,

Presented by the Emperor to the Pope.
Targhetta of Venice set and tinted it;

I have reset it, and retinted it
Divinely, as you see. The jewellers

Say I've surpassed Targhetta.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Let me see it.

A pretty jewel.

BENVENUTO.

That is not the expression.

Pretty is not a very pretty word ¹⁵¹

To be applied to such a precious stone,
Given by an Emperor to a Pope, and

set

By Benvenuto!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Messer Benvenuto,
I lose all patience with you; for the
gifts

That God hath given you are of such
a kind,

They should be put to far more noble
uses

Than setting diamonds for the Pope
of Rome.

You can do greater things.

BENVENUTO.

The God who made me
Knows why he made me what I am,

— a goldsmith, ¹⁶⁰

A mere artificer.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Oh no; an artist,
Richly endowed by nature, but who
wraps

His talent in a napkin, and consumes
His life in vanities.

BENVENUTO.

Michael Angelo
May say what Benvenuto would not
bear

From any other man. He speaks the
truth.

I know my life is wasted and con-
sumed

In vanities; but I have better hours
And higher aspirations than you think.

Once, when a prisoner at St. An-
gelo, ¹⁷⁰

Fasting and praying in the midnight
darkness,

In a celestial vision I beheld

A crucifix in the sun, of the same sub-
stance

As is the sun itself. And since that
hour

There is a splendor round about my
head,

That may be seen at sunrise and at
sunset

Above my shadow on the grass. And
now

I know that I am in the grace of God,
And none henceforth can harm me.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

None but one, —
None but yourself, who are your
greatest foe. :80
He that respects himself is safe from
others;
He wears a coat of mail that none can
pierce.

BENVENUTO.

I always wear one.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

O incorrigible!
At least, forget not the celestial vision.
Man must have something higher
than himself
To think of.

BENVENUTO.

That I know full well. Now listen.
I have been sent for into France,
where grow
The Lilies that illumine heaven and
earth,
And carry in mine equipage the model
Of a most marvellous golden salt-
cellar :90
For the king's table; and here in my
brain
A statue of Mars Armipotent for the
fountain
Of Fontainebleau, colossal, wonder-
ful.
I go a goldsmith, to return a sculptor.
And so farewell, great Master. Think
of me
As one who, in the midst of all his
folies,
Had also his ambition, and aspired
To better things.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Do not forget the vision.

SCENE II. — MICHAEL ANGELO *sitting
down again to the Divina Commedia.*

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Now in what circle of his poem sacred
Would the great Florentine have
placed this man?
Whether in Phlegethon, the river of
blood,

Or in the fiery belt of Purgatory,
I know not, but most surely not with
those
Who walk in leaden cloaks. Though
he is one
Whose passions, like a potent alka-
hest,
Dissolve his better nature, he is not
That despicable thing, a hypocrite;
He doth not cloak his vices, nor deny
them. :10
Come back, my thoughts, from him
to Paradise.

IV

FRA SEBASTIANO DEL PIOMBO

SCENE I. — MICHAEL ANGELO; FRA
SEBASTIANO DEL PIOMBO.

MICHAEL ANGELO, *not turning round.*
Who is it?

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Wait, for I am out of breath
In climbing your steep stairs.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ah, my Bastiano,
If you went up and down as many
stairs
As I do still, and climbed as many
ladders,
It would be better for you. Pray sit
down.
Your idle and luxurious way of living
Will one day take your breath away
entirely,
And you will never find it.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Well, what then?
That would be better, in my appre-
hension, :9
Than falling from a scaffold.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

That was nothing.
It did not kill me; only lamed me
slightly;
I am quite well again.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

But why, dear Master,
Why do you live so high up in your
house,

When you could live below and have
a garden,
As I do ?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

From this window I can look
On many gardens ; o'er the city roofs
See the Campagna and the Alban hills :
And all are mine.

I have not time. Did you meet Ben-
venuto
As you came up the stair ?

FRA SEBASTIANO.

He ran against me
On the first landing, going at full
speed ;

Sebastiano del Piombo.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Can you sit down in them,
On summer afternoons, and play the
lute,
Or sing, or sleep the time away ?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I never
Sleep in the day-time ; scarcely sleep
at night ;

Dressed like the Spanish captain in a
play,
With his long rapier and his short red
cloak.
Why hurry through the world at such
a pace ?
Life will not be too long.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

It is his nature, —

And for those soft Abati, who delight
To wander down long garden walks
in summer,
Tinkling their little sonnets all day
long,
As lap-dogs do their bells.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

I love Petrarca.
How sweetly of his absent love he
sings,
When journeying in the forest of Ar-
dennes!
"I seem to hear her, hearing the
boughs and breezes
And leaves and birds lamenting, and
the waters 90
Murmuring flee along the verdant
herbage."

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Enough. It is all seeming, and no
being.
If you would know how a man speaks
in earnest,
Read here this passage, where St.
Peter thunders
In Paradise against degenerate Popes
And the corruptions of the church,
till all
The heaven about him blushes like a
sunset,
I beg you to take note of what he says
About the Papal seals, for that con-
cerns 99
Your office and yourself.

FRA SEBASTIANO, *reading*.

Is this the passage?
"Nor I be made the figure of a seal
To privileges venal and mendacious;
Whereat I often redden and flash with
fire!" —
That is not poetry.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

What is it, then?

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Vituperation; gall that might have
spirited
From Aretino's pen.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Name not that man!
A profligate, whom your Francesco
Berni

Describes as having one foot in the
brothel
And the other in the hospital; who
lives
By flattering or maligning, as best
serves 110
His purpose at the time. He writes
to me
With easy arrogance of my Last Judg-
ment,
In such familiar tone that one would
say
The great event already had trans-
pired,
And he was present, and from obser-
vation
Informed me how the picture should
be painted.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

What unassuming, unobtrusive men
These critics are! Now, to have Are-
tino
Aiming his shafts at you brings back
to mind
The Gascon archers in the square of
Milan, 120
Shooting their arrows at Duke Sforza's
statue,
By Leonardo, and the foolish rabble
Of envious Florentines, that at your
David
Threw stones at night. But Aretino
praised you.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

His praises were ironical. He knows
How to use words as weapons, and to
wound
While seeming to defend. But look,
Bastiano,
See how the setting sun lights up that
picture!

FRA SEBASTIANO.

My portrait of Vittoria Colonna.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

It makes her look as she will look
hereafter, 130
When she becomes a saint!

FRA SEBASTIANO.

A noble woman!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ah, these old hands can fashion fairer
shapes

In marble, and can paint diviner pictures,
Since I have known her.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

And you like this picture;
And yet it is in oils, which you detest.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

When that barbarian Jan Van Eyck discovered
The use of oil in painting, he degraded
His art into a handicraft, and made it
Sign-painting, merely, for a country inn
Or wayside wine-shop. 'T is an art
for women, 140
Or for such leisurely and idle people
As you are, Fra Bastiano. Nature
paints not
In oils, but frescoes the great dome of
heaven
With sunsets, and the lovely forms of
clouds
And flying vapors.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

And how soon they fade!
Behold yon line of roofs and belfries
painted
Upon the golden background of the
sky,
Like a Byzantine picture, or a portrait
Of Cimabue. See how hard the outline,
Sharp-cut and clear, not rounded into
shadow. 150
Yet that is nature.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

She is always right.
The picture that approaches sculpture
nearest
Is the best picture.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Leonardo thinks
The open air too bright. We ought
to paint
As if the sun were shining through a
mist.
'T is easier done in oil than in distemper.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Do not revive again the old dispute;

I have an excellent memory for forgetting,
But I still feel the hurt. Wounds are
not healed
By the unbending of the bow that
made them. 160

FRA SEBASTIANO.

So say Petrarca and the ancient proverb.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

But that is past. Now I am angry
with you,
Not that you paint in oils, but that,
grown fat
And indolent, you do not paint at all.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Why should I paint? Why should I
toil and sweat,
Who now am rich enough to live at
ease,
And take my pleasure?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

When Pope Leo died,
He who had been so lavish of the
wealth
His predecessors left him, who received
A basket of gold-pieces every morning,
170
Which every night was empty, left
behind
Hardly enough to pay his funeral.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

I care for banquets, not for funerals,
As did his Holiness. I have forbidden
All tapers at my burial, and procession
Of priests and friars and monks; and
have provided
The cost thereof be given to the poor!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

You have done wisely, but of that I
speak not.
Ghiberti left behind him wealth and
children;
But who to-day would know that he
had lived, 180
If he had never made those gates of
bronze
In the old Baptistery, — those gates
of bronze,

Worthy to be the gates of Paradise.
His wealth is scattered to the winds;
his children
Are long since dead; but those cele-
stial gates
Survive, and keep his name and mem-
ory green.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

But why should I fatigue myself?
I think
That all things it is possible to paint
Have been already painted; and if not,
Why, there are painters in the world
at present 190
Who can accomplish more in two
short months
Than I could in two years; so it is
well
That some one is contented to do no-
thing,
And leave the field to others.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

O blasphemer!
Not without reason do the people call
you

Sebastian del Piombo, for the lead
Of all the Papal bulls is heavy upon
you,
And wraps you like a shroud.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Misericordia!
Sharp is the vinegar of sweet wine,
and sharp
The words you speak, because the
heart within you 200
Is sweet unto the core.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

How changed you are
From the Sebastiano I once knew,
When poor, laborious, emulous to
excel,
You strove in rivalry with Baldassare
And Raphael Sanzio.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Raphael is dead;
He is but dust and ashes in his grave,
While I am living and enjoying life,
And so am victor. One live Pope is
worth
A dozen dead ones.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Raphael is not dead ;
 He doth but sleep ; for how can he be
 dead ²¹⁰
 Who lives immortal in the hearts of
 men ?
 He only drank the precious wine of
 youth,
 The outbreak of the grapes, before the
 vintage
 Was trodden to bitterness by the feet
 of men.
 The gods have given him sleep. We
 never were
 Nor could be foes, although our fol-
 lowers,
 Who are distorted shadows of our-
 selves,
 Have striven to make us so ; but each
 one worked
 Unconsciously upon the other's
 thought,
 Both giving and receiving. He per-
 chance ²²⁰
 Caught strength from me, and I some
 greater sweetness
 And tenderness from his more gentle
 nature.
 I have but words of praise and admi-
 ration
 For his great genius ; and the world is
 fairer
 That he lived in it.

FRA SEBASTIANO.

We at least are friends ;
 So come with me.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

No, no ; I am best pleased
 When I'm not asked to banquets. I
 have reached
 A time of life when daily walks are
 shortened,
 And even the houses of our dearest
 friends,
 That used to be so near, seem far
 away. ²³⁰

FRA SEBASTIANO.

Then we must sup without you. We
 shall laugh
 At those who toil for fame, and make
 their lives
 A tedious martyrdom, that they may
 live

A little longer in the mouths of men !
 And so, good-night.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Good-night, my Fra Bastiano.

SCENE II. — MICHAEL ANGELO, *re-
turning to his work.*

MICHAEL ANGELO.

How will men speak of me when I am
 gone,
 When all this colorless, sad life is
 ended,
 And I am dust ? They will remember
 only
 The wrinkled forehead, the marred
 countenance,
 The rudeness of my speech, and my
 rough manners, ²⁴⁰
 And never dream that underneath
 them all
 There was a woman's heart of tender-
 ness ;
 They will not know the secret of my
 life,
 Locked up in silence, or but vaguely
 hinted
 In uncouth rhymes, that may per-
 chance survive
 Some little space in memories of men !
 Each one performs his life-work, and
 then leaves it ;
 Those that come after him will esti-
 mate
 His influence on the age in which he
 lived.

V

PALAZZO BELVEDERE

TITIAN'S *studio*. *A painting of Da-
 naë with a curtain before it.* TITIAN,
 MICHAEL ANGELO, and GIORGIO
 VASARI.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

So you have left at last your still
 lagoons,
 Your City of Silence floating in the sea,
 And come to us in Rome.

TITIAN.

I come to learn,
 But I have come too late. I should
 have seen

Michael Angelo's visit to Titian's Studio

Rome in my youth, when all my mind
 was open
 To new impressions. Our Vasari here
 Leads me about, a blind man, groping
 darkly
 Among the marvels of the past. I
 touch them,
 But do not see them.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

There are things in Rome

That one might walk barefooted here
 from Venice
 But to see once, and then to die con-
 tent.

TITIAN.

I must confess that these majestic ruins
 Oppress me with their gloom. I feel
 as one
 Who in the twilight stumbles among
 tombs,

And cannot read the inscriptions carved
upon them.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I felt so once ; but I have grown fa-
miliar
With desolation, and it has become
No more a pain to me, but a delight.

TITIAN.

I could not live here. I must have the
sea,
And the sea-mist, with sunshine inter-
woven
Like cloth of gold ; must have beneath
my windows
The laughter of the waves, and at my
door
Their pattering footsteps, or I am not
happy.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Then tell me of your city in the sea,
Paved with red basalt of the Paduan
hills.
Tell me of art in Venice. Three great
names,
Giorgione, Titian, and the Tintoretto,
Illustrate your Venetian school, and
send
A challenge to the world. The first
is dead,
But Tintoretto lives.

TITIAN.

And paints with fire,
Sudden and splendid, as the lightning
paints
The cloudy vault of heaven.

GIORGIO.

Does he still keep
Above his door the arrogant inscrip-
tion
That once was painted there, — " The
color of Titian,
With the design of Michael Angelo " ?

TITIAN.

Indeed, I know not. 'T was a foolish
boast,
And does no harm to any but himself.
Perhaps he has grown wiser.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

When you two
Are gone, who is there that remains
behind

To seize the pencil falling from your
fingers ?

GIORGIO.

Oh, there are many hands upraised al-
ready
To clutch at such a prize, and hardly
wait
For death to loose your grasp, — a
hundred of them :
Schiavone, Bonifazio, Campagnola,
Moretto, and Moroni ; who can count
them,
Or measure their ambition ?

TITIAN.

When we are gone,
The generation that comes after us
Will have far other thoughts than
ours. Our ruins
Will serve to build their palaces or
tombs.
They will possess the world that we
think ours,
And fashion it far otherwise.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I hear
Your son Orazio and your nephew
Marco
Mentioned with honor.

TITIAN.

Ay, brave lads, brave lads.
But time will show. There is a youth
in Venice,
One Paul Cagliari, called the Veron-
ese,
Still a mere stripling, but of such rare
promise
That we must guard our laurels, or
may lose them.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

These are good tidings ; for I some-
times fear
That, when we die, with us all art will
die.
'T is but a fancy. Nature will provide
Others to take our places. I rejoice
To see the young spring forward in
the race,
Eager as we were, and as full of hope
And the sublime audacity of youth.

TITIAN.

Men die and are forgotten. The great
world

Goes on the same. Among the myri-
 ada
 Of men that live, or have lived, or
 shall live,
 What is a single life, or thine or mine,
 That we should think all nature
 would stand still
 If we were gone? We must make
 room for others. 70

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And now, Maestro, pray unveil your
 picture
 Of Danaë, of which I hear such praise,

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And more, that you were present,
 And saw the showery Jove from high
 Olympus
 Descend in all his splendor.

TITIAN.

From your lips
 Such words are full of sweetness.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

You have caught
 These golden hues from your Vene-
 tian sunsets. 80

Titian

TITIAN, *drawing back the curtain.*
 What think you?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

That Acrisius did well
 To lock such beauty in a brazen
 tower,
 And hide it from all eyes.

TITIAN.

The model truly
 Was beautiful.

TITIAN.

Possibly.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Or from sunshine through a shower
 On the lagoons, or the broad Adriatic.
 Nature reveals herself in all our arts.
 The pavements and the palaces of
 cities
 Hint at the nature of the neighboring
 hills.
 Red lavas from the Euganean quarries

Of Padua pave your streets; your
palaces
Are the white stones of Istria, and
gleam
Reflected in your waters and your
pictures.
And thus the works of every artist
show
Something of his surroundings and his⁹⁰
habits.
The uttermost that can be reached by
color
Is here accomplished. Warmth and
light and softness
Mingle together. Never yet was flesh
Painted by hand of artist, dead or liv-
ing,
With such divine perfection.

TITIAN.

I am grateful
For so much praise from you, who are
a master;
While mostly those who praise and
those who blame
Know nothing of the matter, so that
mainly
Their censure sounds like praise, their
praise like censure.¹⁰⁰

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Wonderful! wonderful! The charm
of color
Fascinates me the more that in myself
The gift is wanting. I am not a
painter.

GIORGIO.

Messer Michele, all the arts are yours,
Not one alone; and therefore I may
venture
To put a question to you.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Well, speak on.

GIORGIO.

Two nephews of the Cardinal Farnese
Have made me umpire in dispute be-
tween them
Which is the greater of the sister arts,
Painting or sculpture. Solve for me
the doubt.¹¹⁰

MICHAEL ANGELO

Sculpture and painting have a common
goal,
And whoever would attain to it,

Whichever path he take, will find that
goal
Equally hard to reach.

GIORGIO.

No doubt, no doubt;
But you evade the question.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

When I stand
In presence of this picture, I concede
That painting has attained its utter-
most;
But in the presence of my sculptured
figures
I feel that my conception soars beyond
All limit I have reached.

GIORGIO.

You still evade me.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Giorgio Vasari, I have often said¹²¹
That I account that painting as the
best
Which most resembles sculpture.
Here before us
We have the proof. Behold these
rounded limbs!
How from the canvas they detach
themselves,
Till they deceive the eye, and one
would say,
It is a statue with a screen behind it!

TITIAN.

Signori, pardon me; but all such ques-
tions
Seem to me idle.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Idle as the wind.
And now, Maestro, I will say once
more¹³⁰
How admirable I esteem your work,
And leave you, without further inter-
ruption.

TITIAN.

Your friendly visit hath much honored
me.

GIORGIO.

Farewell.

MICHAEL ANGELO to GIORGIO, *going
out.*

If the Venetian painters knew

But half as much of drawing as of
color,
They would indeed work miracles in
art,
And the world see what it hath never
seen.

VI

PALAZZO CESARINI

SCENE I. — VITTORIA COLONNA, *seated
in an arm-chair*; JULIA GONZAGA,
standing near her.

JULIA.

It grieves me that I find you still so
weak
And suffering.

VITTORIA.

No, not suffering; only dying.
Death is the chillness that precedes
the dawn;
We shudder for a moment, then awake
In the broad sunshine of the other life.
I am a shadow, merely, and these
hands,
These cheeks, these eyes, these tresses
that my husband
Once thought so beautiful, and I was
proud of
Because he thought them so, are faded
quite, —
All beauty gone from them.

JULIA.

Ah, no, not that.
Paler you are, but not less beautiful.

VITTORIA, *folding her hands*.

O gentle spirit, unto the third circle
Of heaven among the blessed souls
ascended,
Who living for the faith and dying for
it,
Have gone to their reward, I do not
mourn
For thee as being dead, but for my-
self
That I am still alive. A little longer
Have patience with me, and if I am
wanting
To thy well-being as thou art to mine,
Have patience; I will come to thee
ere long.

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JULIA.

Do not give way to these foreboding
thoughts.

VITTORIA.

Hand me the mirror. I would fain
behold
What change comes o'er our features
when we die.
Thank you. And now sit down beside
me here.
How glad I am that you have come
to-day,
Above all other days, and at the hour
When most I need you.

JULIA.

Do you ever need me?

VITTORIA.

Always, and most of all to-day and
now.
Do you remember, Julia, when we
walked,
One afternoon, upon the castle ter-
race
At Ischia, on the day before you left
me?

JULIA.

Well I remember; but it seems to me
Something unreal that has never been,
Something that I have read of in a
book,
Or heard of some one else.

VITTORIA.

Ten years and more
Have passed since then; and many
things have happened
In those ten years, and many friends
have died:
Marco Flaminio, whom we all admired
And loved as our Catullus; dear Vul-
desso,
The noble champion of free thought
and speech;
And Cardinal Ippolito, your friend.

JULIA.

Oh, do not speak of him! His sudden
death
O'ercomes me now, as it o'ercame me
then.
Let me forget it; for my memory
Serves me too often as an unkind
friend,

40

And I remember things I would forget,
While I forget the things I would remember.

VITTORIA.

Forgive me; I will speak of him no more.
The good Fra Bernardino has departed,
Has fled from Italy, and crossed the Alps,
Fearing Caraffa's wrath, because he taught⁵⁰
That He who made us all without our help
Could also save us without aid of ours.
Renée of France, the Duchess of Ferrara,
That Lily of the Loire, is bowed by winds
That blow from Rome; Olympia Morata
Banished from court because of this new doctrine.
Therefore be cautious. Keep your secret thought
Locked in your breast.

JULIA.

I will be very prudent.
But speak no more, I pray; it wearies you.⁶⁰

VITTORIA.

Yes, I am very weary. Read to me.

JULIA.

Most willingly. What shall I read?

VITTORIA.

Petrarca's
Triumph of Death. The book lies on the table,
Beside the casket there. Read where you find
The leaf turned down. 'T was there I left off reading.

JULIA reads.

"Not as a flame that by some force is spent,
But one that of itself consumeth quite,
Departed hence in peace the soul content,
In fashion of a soft and lucent light

Whose nutriment by slow gradation goes,
Keeping until the end its lustre bright.⁷⁰

Not pale, but whiter than the sheet of snows

That without wind on some fair hill-top lies,

Her weary body seemed to find repose.

Like a sweet slumber in her lovely eyes,

When now the spirit was no longer there,

Was what is dying called by the unwise.

E'en Death itself in her fair face seemed fair."

Is it of Laura that he here is speaking? —

She doth not answer, yet is not asleep;
Her eyes are full of light and fixed on something⁸¹

Above her in the air. I can see naught
Except the painted angels on the ceiling.

Vittoria! speak! What is it? Answer me! —

She only smiles, and stretches out her hands.

[The mirror falls and breaks.]

VITTORIA.

Call my confessor! —

Not disobedient to the heavenly vision!

Pescara! my Pescara!

[Dies.]

JULIA.

Holy Virgin!
Her body sinks together, — she is dead!

[Kneels, and hides her face in Vittoria's lap.]

SCENE II. — JULIA GONZAGA, MICHAEL ANGELO.

JULIA.

Hush! make no noise.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

How is she?

JULIA.

Never better.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Then she is dead!

JULIA.

Alas! yes, she is dead!
Even death itself in her fair face
seems fair.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

How wonderful! The light upon her
face
Shines from the windows of another
world.
Saints only have such faces. Holy
Angels!
Bear her like sainted Catherine to her
rest!

[Kisses Vittoria's hand.]

PART THIRD

I

MONOLOGUE

*Macello de' Corvi. A room in MICHAEL
ANGELO's house.*

MICHAEL ANGELO, *standing before
a model of St. Peter's.*

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Better than thou I cannot, Brunelles-
chi,
And less than thou I will not! If the
thought
Could, like a windlass, lift the pon-
derous stones
And swing them to their places; if a
breath
Could blow this rounded dome into
the air
As if it were a bubble, and these
statues
Spring at a signal to their sacred sta-
tions,
As sentinels mount guard upon a wall,
Then were my task completed. Now,
alas!
Naught am I but a Saint Sebaldus,
holding¹⁰
Upon his hand the model of a church,
As German artists paint him; and
what years,
What weary years, must drag them-
selves along,

Ere this be turned to stone! What
hindrances
Must block the way; what idle inter-
ferences
Of Cardinals and Canons of St. Peter's,
Who nothing know of art beyond the
color
Of cloaks and stockings, nor of any
building
Save that of their own fortunes! And
what then?
I must then the short-coming of my
means²⁰
Piece out by stepping forward, as the
Spartan
Was told to add a step to his short
sword.

[A pause.]

And is Fra Bastian dead? Is all that
light
Gone out? that sunshine darkened?
all that music
And merriment, that used to make our
lives
Less melancholy, swallowed up in si-
lence
Like madrigals sung in the street at
night
By passing revellers? It is strange
indeed
That he should die before me. 'T is
against
The laws of nature that the young
should die,³⁰
And the old live; unless it be that
some
Have long been dead who think them-
selves alive,
Because not buried. Well, what mat-
ters it,
Since now that greater light, that was
my sun,
Is set, and all is darkness, all is dark-
ness!
Death's lightnings strike to right and
left of me,
And, like a ruined wall, the world
around me
Crumbles away, and I am left alone.
I have no friends, and want none.
My own thoughts⁴⁰
Are now my sole companions, —
thoughts of her,
That like a benediction from the skies
Come to me in my solitude and soothe
me.

When men are old, the incessant
thought of Death
Follows them like their shadow ; sits
with them
At every meal ; sleeps with them when
they sleep ;
And when they wake already is awake,
And standing by their bedside. Then,
what folly
It is in us to make an enemy
Of this importunate follower, not a
friend !
To me a friend, and not an enemy, ⁵⁰
Has he become since all my friends
are dead.

II

VIGNA DI PAPA GIULIO

SCENE I. — POPE JULIUS III. *seated
by the Fountain of Acqua Vergine,
surrounded by Cardinals.*

JULIUS.

Tell me, why is it ye are discontent,
You, Cardinals Salviati and Marcello,
With Michael Angelo ? What has he
done,
Or left undone, that ye are set against
him ?
When one Pope dies, another is soon
made ;
And I can make a dozen Cardinals,
But cannot make one Michael Angelo.

CARDINAL SALVIATI.

Your Holiness, we are not set against
him ;
We but deplore his incapacity. ⁹
He is too old.

JULIUS.

You, Cardinal Salviati,
Are an old man Are you incapa-
ble ?
'T is the old ox that draws the straight-
est furrow.

CARDINAL MARCELLO.

Your Holiness remembers he was
charged
With the repairs upon St. Mary's
bridge ;

Made cofferdams, and heaped up load
on load
Of timber and travertine ; and yet for
years
The bridge remained unfinished, till
we gave it
To Baccio Bigio.

JULIUS.

Always Baccio Bigio !
Is there no other architect on earth ?
Was it not he that sometime had in
charge ²⁰
The harbor of Ancona ?

CARDINAL MARCELLO.

Ay, the same.

JULIUS.

Then let me tell you that your Baccio
Bigio
Did greater damage in a single day
To that fair harbor than the sea had
done
Or would do in ten years. And him
you think
To put in place of Michael Angelo,
In building the Basilica of St. Peter !
The ass that thinks himself a stag dis-
covers
His error when he comes to leap the
ditch. ²⁹

CARDINAL MARCELLO.

He does not build ; he but demol-
ishes
The labors of Bramante and San Gallo.

JULIUS.

Only to build more grandly.

CARDINAL MARCELLO.

But time passes ;
Year after year goes by, and yet the
work
Is not completed. Michael Angelo
Is a great sculptor, but no architect.
His plans are faulty.

JULIUS.

I have seen his model,
And have approved it. But here
comes the artist.
Beware of him. He may make Per-
sians of you,
To carry burdens on your backs for-
ever.

SCENE II. — *The same*: MICHAEL ANGELO.

JULIUS.

Come forward, dear Maestro. In
these gardens
All ceremonies of our court are ban-
ished.
Sit down beside me here.

MICHAEL ANGELO, *sitting down*.

Now graciously
Your Holiness commiserates old age
And its infirmities!

JULIUS.

Say its privileges.
Art I respect. The building of this
palace
And laying out of these pleasant gar-
den walks
Are my delight, and if I have not
asked
Your aid in this, it is that I forbear
To lay new burdens on you at an age
When you need rest. Here I escape
from Rome
To be at peace. The tumult of the
city
Scarce reaches here.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

How beautiful it is,
And quiet almost as a hermitage!

JULIUS.

We live as hermits here; and from
these heights
O'erlook all Rome and see the yellow
Tiber
Cleaving in twain the city, like a
sword,
As far below there as St. Mary's
bridge.
What think you of that bridge?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I would advise
Your Holiness not to cross it, or not
often;
It is not safe.

JULIUS.

It was repaired of late.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Some morning you will look for it in
vain;

It will be gone. The current of the
river
Is undermining it.

JULIUS.

But you repaired it.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I strengthened all its piers, and paved
its road
With travertine. He who came after
me
Removed the stone and sold it, and
filled in
The space with gravel.

JULIUS.

Cardinal Salviati
And Cardinal Marcello, do you listen?
This is your famous Nanni Baccio
Bigio.

30

MICHAEL ANGELO, *aside*.

There is some mystery here. These
Cardinals
Stand lowering at me with unfriendly
eyes.

JULIUS.

Now let us come to what concerns us
more
Than bridge or gardens. Some com-
plaints are made
Concerning the Three Chapels in St.
Peter's;
Certain supposed defects or imperfec-
tions,
You doubtless can explain.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

This is no longer
The golden age of art. Men have be-
come
Iconoclasts and critics. They delight
not
In what an artist does, but set them-
selves
To censure what they do not com-
prehend.
You will not see them bearing a Ma-
donna
Of Cimabue to the church in triumph,
But tearing down the statue of a
Pope
To cast it into cannon. Who are they
That bring complaints against me?

40

20

JULIUS.

Deputies
Of the Commissioners; and they com-
plain
Of insufficient light in the Three
Chapels.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Your Holiness, the insufficient light
Is somewhere else, and not in the
Three Chapels.
Who are the deputies that make com-
plaint? ⁵⁰

JULIUS.

The Cardinals Salviati and Marcello,
Here present.

MICHAEL ANGELO, *rising*.

With permission, Monsignori,
What is it ye complain of?

CARDINAL MARCELLO.

We regret
You have departed from Bramante's
plan,
And from San Gallo's.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Since the ancient time
No greater architect has lived on earth
Than Lazzari Bramante. His design,
Without confusion, simple, clear, well-
lighted,
Merits all praise, and to depart from
it ⁶⁰
Would be departing from the truth.
San Gallo,
Building about with columns, took all
light
Out of this plan; left in the choir
dark corners
For infinite ribaldries, and lurking
places
For rogues and robbers; so that when
the church
Was shut at night, not five and twenty
men
Could find them out. It was San
Gallo, then,
That left the church in darkness, and
not I.

CARDINAL MARCELLO.

Excuse me; but in each of the Three
Chapels
Is but a single window. ⁶⁹

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Monsignore,
Perhaps you do not know that in the
vaulting
Above there are to go three other win-
dows.

CARDINAL SALVIATI.

How should we know? You never
told us of it.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I neither am obliged, nor will I be,
To tell your Eminence or any other
What I intend or ought to do. Your
office
Is to provide the means, and see that
thieves
Do not lay hands upon them. The
designs
Must all be left to me.

CARDINAL MARCELLO.

Sir architect,
You do forget yourself, to speak thus
rudely ⁸⁰
In presence of his Holiness, and to us
Who are his Cardinals.

MICHAEL ANGELO, *putting on his hat*.

I do not forget
I am descended from the Counts Ca-
nossa,
Linked with the Imperial line, and
with Matilda,
Who gave the Church Saint Peter's
Patrimony.
I, too, am proud to give unto the
Church
The labor of these hands, and what of
life
Remains to me. My father Buonarotti
Was Podestà of Chiusi and Caprese.
I am not used to have men speak to
me ⁹⁰
As if I were a mason, hired to build
A garden wall, and paid on Saturdays
So much an hour.

CARDINAL SALVIATI, *aside*.

No wonder that Pope Clement
Never sat down in presence of this
man,
Lest he should do the same; and al-
ways bade him
Put on his hat, lest he unasked should
do it!

"What is it ye complain of?"

MICHAEL ANGELO.

If any one could die of grief and
shame,
I should. This labor was imposed
upon me;
I did not seek it; and if I assumed it,
'T was not for love of fame or love of
gain,
But for the love of God. Perhaps old
age
Deceived me, or self interest, or ambi-
tion;
I may be doing harm instead of good.
Therefore, I pray your Holiness, re-
lease me;
Take off from me the burden of this
work;
Let me go back to Florence.

JULIUS.

Never, never,
While I am living.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Doth your Holiness
Remember what the Holy Scriptures
say

Of the inevitable time, when those
Who look out of the windows shall be
darkened,
And the almond-tree shall flourish?

JULIUS.

That is in
Ecclesiastes.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And the grasshopper
Shall be a burden, and desire shall
fall,
Because man goeth unto his long
home.
Vanity of Vanities, saith the Preacher;
all
Is vanity.

JULIUS.

Ah, were to do a thing
As easy as to dream of doing it,
We should not want for artists. But
the men
Who carry out in act their great de-
signs
Are few in number; aye, they may be
counted

Upon the fingers of this hand. Your
place
Is at St. Peter's.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I have had my dream,
And cannot carry out my great con-
ception,
And put it into act.

JULIUS.

Then who can do it?
You would but leave it to some Baccio
Bigio
To mangle and deface.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Rather than that,
I will still bear the burden on my
shoulders
A little longer. If your Holiness
Will keep the world in order, and will
leave
The building of the church to me, the
work
Will go on better for it. Holy Father,
If all the labor that I have endured,
And shall endure, advantage not my
soul,
I am but losing time.

JULIUS, *laying his hands on* MICHAEL
ANGELO'S *shoulders*.

You will be gainer
Both for your soul and body.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Not events
Exasperate me, but the funest conclu-
sions
I draw from these events; the sure
decline
Of art, and all the meaning of that
word;
All that embellishes and sweetens life,
And lifts it from the level of low
cares
Into the purer atmosphere of beauty;
The faith in the Ideal; the inspiration
That made the canons of the church
of Seville
Say, "Let us build, so that all men
hereafter
Will say that we were madmen." Holy
Father,
I beg permission to retire from here.

JULIUS.

Go; and my benediction be upon you.

SCENE III. — POPE JULIUS *and the*
CARDINALS.

JULIUS.

My Cardinals, this Michael Angelo
Must not be dealt with as a common
mason.

He comes of noble blood, and for his
crest
Bears two bull's horns; and he has
given us proof
That he can toss with them. From
this day forth
Unto the end of time, let no man utter
The name of Baccio Bigio in my pres-
ence.

All great achievements are the natural
fruits

Of a great character. As trees bear
not

Their fruits of the same size and qual-
ity,

But each one in its kind with equal
ease,

So are great deeds as natural to great
men

As mean things are to small ones. By
his work

We know the master. Let us not per-
plex him.

III

BINDO ALTOVITI

*A street in Rome. BINDO ALTOVITI,
standing at the door of his house.*
MICHAEL ANGELO, *passing*.

BINDO.

Good-morning, Messer Michael An-
gelo!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Good-morning, Messer Bindo Altoviti!

BINDO.

What brings you forth so early?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The same reason
That keeps you standing sentinel at
your door, —

The air of this delicious summer morning.

What news have you from Florence?

BINDO.

Nothing new ;
The same old tale of violence and wrong.

Since the disastrous day at Monte Murlo,

When in procession, through San Gallo's gate,

Bareheaded, clothed in rags, on sorry steeds,

Philippo Strozzi and the good Valori¹⁰
Amid the shouts of an ungrateful people

Were led as prisoners down the streets of Florence,

Hope is no more, and liberty no more.
Duke Cosimo, the tyrant, reigns supreme.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Florence is dead : her houses are but tombs ;

Silence and solitude are in her streets.

BINDO.

Ah yes ; and often I repeat the words

You wrote upon your statue of the Night,

There in the Sacristy of San Lorenzo :

"Grateful to me is sleep ; to be of stone²⁰

More grateful, while the wrong and shame endure ;

To see not, feel not, is a benediction ;
Therefore awake me not ; oh, speak in whispers."

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ah, Messer Bindo, the calamities,
The fallen fortunes, and the desolation
Of Florence are to me a tragedy
Deeper than words, and darker than despair.

I, who have worshipped Freedom from my cradle,

Have loved her with the passion of a lover,

And clothed her with all lovely attributes³⁰

That the imagination can conceive,
Or the heart conjure up, now see her dead,

And trodden in the dust beneath the feet

Of an adventurer! It is a grief
Too great for me to bear in my old
age.

BINDO.

I say no news from Florence: I am
wrong,
For Benvenuto writes that he is com-
ing
To be my guest in Rome.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Those are good tidings.
He hath been many years away from
us. 40

BINDO.

Pray you, come in.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I have not time to stay,
And yet I will. I see from here your
house
Is filled with works of art. That bust
in bronze
Is of yourself. Tell me, who is the
master
That works in such an admirable way,
And with such power and feeling?

BINDO.

Benvenuto.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ah? Benvenuto? 'Tis a masterpiece!
It pleases me as much, and even more,
Than the antiques about it; and yet
they
Are of the best one sees. But you
have placed it 50
By far too high. The light comes
from below,
And injures the expression. Were
these windows
Above and not beneath it, then indeed
It would maintain its own among these
works
Of the old masters, noble as they are.
I will go in and study it more closely.
I always prophesied that Benvenuto,
With all his follies and fantastic ways,
Would show his genius in some work
of art
That would amaze the world, and be
a challenge 60
Unto all other artists of his time.

[*They go in.*]

IV

IN THE COLISEUM

MICHAEL ANGELO *and* TOMASO DE
CAVALIERI.

CAVALIERI.

What do you here alone, Messer
Michele?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I come to learn.

CAVALIERI.

You are already master,
And teach all other men.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Nay, I know nothing;
Not even my own ignorance, as some
Philosopher hath said. I am a school-
boy
Who hath not learned his lesson, and
who stands
Ashamed and silent in the awful pres-
ence
Of the great master of antiquity
Who built these walls cyclopean.

CAVALIERI.

Gaudentius
His name was, I remember. His re-
ward 10
Was to be thrown alive to the wild
beasts
Here where we now are standing.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Idle tales.

CAVALIERI.

But you are greater than Gaudentius
was,
And your work nobler.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Silence, I beseech you.

CAVALIERI.

Tradition says that fifteen thousand
men
Were toiling for ten years incessantly
Upon this amphitheatre.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Behold

"Look at these walls about us and above us!"

How wonderful it is! The queen of
flowers,

The marble rose of Rome! Its petals
torn

By wind and rain of thrice five hun-
dred years;

Its mossy sheath half rent away, and
sold

To ornament our palaces and churches,
Or to be trodden under feet of man
Upon the Tiber's bank; yet what re-
mains

Still opening its fair bosom to the sun,
And to the constellations that at night
Hang poised above it like a swarm of
bees.

CAVALIERI.

The rose of Rome, but not of Para-
dise;

Not the white rose our Tuscan poet
saw

With saints for petals. When this
rose was perfect

Its hundred thousand petals were not
saints,

But senators in their Thessalian cape,
And all the roaring populace of Rome;
And even an Empress and the Vestal
Virgins,

Who came to see the gladiators die,
Could not give sweetness to a rose like
this.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I spake not of its uses, but its beauty.

CAVALIERI.

The sand beneath our feet is saturate
With blood of martyrs; and these
rifted stones

Are awful witnesses against a people
Whose pleasure was the pain of dying
men.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Tomaso Cavalieri, on my word,
You should have been a preacher, not
a painter!

Think you that I approve such cruel-
ties,

Because I marvel at the architects

Who built these walls, and curved
these noble arches?
Oh, I am put to shame, when I con-
sider
How mean our work is, when com-
pared with theirs!
Look at these walls about us and
above us!
They have been shaken by earth-
quakes, have been made ⁵⁰
A fortress, and been battered by long
sieges;
The iron clamps, that held the stones
together,
Have been wrenched from them; but
they stand erect
And firm, as if they had been hewn
and hollowed
Out of the solid rock, and were a part
Of the foundations of the world itself.

CAVALIERI.

Your work, I say again, is nobler
work,
In so far as its end and aim are nobler;
And this is but a ruin, like the rest.
Its vaulted passages are made the
caverns ⁶⁰
Of robbers, and are haunted by the
ghosts
Of murdered men.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

A thousand wild flowers bloom
From every chink, and the birds build
their nests
Among the ruined arches, and suggest
New thoughts of beauty to the archi-
tect.
Now let us climb the broken stairs
that lead
Into the corridors above, and study
The marvel and the mystery of that
art
In which I am a pupil, not a master.

All things must have an end; the
world itself ⁷⁰
Must have an end, as in a dream I saw
it.
There came a great hand out of hea-
ven, and touched
The earth, and stopped it in its course.
The seas
Leaped, a vast cataract, into the abyss;

The forests and the fields slid off, and
floated
Like wooded islands in the air. The
dead
Were hurled forth from their sepul-
chres; the living
Were mingled with them, and them-
selves were dead, —
All being dead; and the fair, shining
cities
Dropped out like jewels from a
broken crown, ⁸⁰
Naught but the core of the great
globe remained,
A skeleton of stone. And over it
The wrack of matter drifted like a
cloud,
And then recoiled upon itself, and
fell
Back on the empty world, that with
the weight
Reeled, staggered, righted, and then
headlong plunged
Into the darkness, as a ship, when
struck
By a great sea, throws off the waves
at first
On either side, then settles and goes
down
Into the dark abyss, with her dead
crew. ⁹⁰

CAVALIERI.

But the earth does not move.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Who knows? who knows?
There are great truths that pitch their
shining tents
Outside our walls, and though but
dimly seen
In the gray dawn, they will be mani-
fest
When the light widens into perfect
day.
A certain man, Copernicus by name,
Sometime professor here in Rome, has
whispered
It is the earth, and not the sun, that
moves.
What I beheld was only in a dream,
Yet dreams sometimes anticipate
events, ¹⁰⁰
Being unsubstantial images of things
As yet unseen.

V

MACELLO DE' CORVI

MICHAEL ANGELO, BENVENUTO CELLINI.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

So, Benvenuto, you return once more
To the Eternal City. 'T is the centre
To which all gravitates. One finds no
rest

Elsewhere than here. There may be
other cities

That please us for a while, but Rome
alone

Completely satisfies. It becomes to
all

A second native land by predilection,
And not by accident of birth alone.

BENVENUTO.

I am but just arrived, and am now
lodging

With Bindo Altoviti. I have been ¹⁰
To kiss the feet of our most Holy
Father,

And now am come in haste to kiss the
hands

Of my miraculous Master.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And to find him
Grown very old.

BENVENUTO.

You know that precious stones
Never grow old.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Half sunk beneath the horizon,
And yet not gone. Twelve years are
a long while.

Tell me of France.

BENVENUTO.

It were too long a tale
To tell you all. Suffice in brief to say
The King received me well, and loved
me well;

Gave me the annual pension that be-
fore me ²⁰

Our Leonardo had, nor more nor less,
And for my residence the Tour de
Nesle,

Upon the river-side.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

A princely lodging.

BENVENUTO.

What in return I did now matters not,
For there are other things, of greater
moment,

I wish to speak of. First of all, the
letter

You wrote me, not long since, about
my bust

Of Bindo Altoviti, here in Rome.

You said,

"My Benvenuto, I for many years
Have known you as the greatest of
all goldsmiths, ³⁰

And now I know you as no less a
sculptor."

Ah, generous Master! How shall I
e'er thank you

For such kind language?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

By believing it.
I saw the bust at Messer Bindo's house,
And thought it worthy of the ancient
masters,

And said so. That is all.

BENVENUTO.

It is too much :
And I should stand abashed here in
your presence,
Had I done nothing worthier of your
praise

Than Bindo's bust.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

What have you done that 's better?

BENVENUTO.

When I left Rome for Paris, you re-
member

I promised you that if I went a gold-
smith ⁴⁰

I would return a sculptor. I have kept
The promise I then made.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Dear Benvenuto,
I recognized the latent genius in you,
But feared your vices.

BENVENUTO.

I have turned them all
To virtues. My impatient, wayward
nature.

That made me quick in quarrel, now
 has served me
 Where meekness could not, and where
 patience could not,
 As you shall hear now. I have cast
 in bronze
 A statue of Perseus, holding thus
 aloft
 In his left hand the head of the Me-⁵⁰
 dusa,
 And in his right the sword that sev-
 ered it;
 His right foot planted on the lifeless
 corse;
 His face superb and pitiful, with eyes
 Down-looking on the victim of his
 vengeance.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I see it as it should be.

BENVENUTO.

As it will be
 When it is placed upon the Ducal
 Square,
 Half-way between your David and
 the Judith
 Of Donatello.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Rival of them both!

BENVENUTO.

But ah, what infinite trouble have I
 had⁶⁰
 With Bandinello, and that stupid
 beast,
 The major-domo of Duke Cosimo,
 Francesco Ricci, and their wretched
 agent
 Gorini, who came crawling round
 about me
 Like a black spider, with his whining
 voice
 That sounded like the buzz of a mos-
 quito!
 Oh, I have wept in utter desperation,
 And wished a thousand times I had
 not left
 My Tour de Nesle, nor e'er returned
 to Florence,
 Nor thought of Perseus. What ma-
 lignant falsehoods⁷⁰
 They told the Grand Duke, to impede
 my work,
 And make me desperate!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The nimble lie
 Is like the second-hand upon a clock;
 We see it fly, while the hour-hand of
 truth
 Seems to stand still, and yet it moves
 unseen,
 And wins at last, for the clock will
 not strike
 Till it has reached the goal.

BENVENUTO.

My obstinacy
 Stood me in stead, and helped me to
 o'ercome⁷⁸
 The hindrances that envy and ill-will
 Put in my way.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

When anything is done
 People see not the patient doing of it,
 Nor think how great would be the loss
 to man
 If it had not been done. As in a
 building
 Stone rests on stone, and wanting the
 foundation
 All would be wanting, so in human
 life
 Each action rests on the foregone
 event,
 That made it possible, but is forgotten
 And buried in the earth.

BENVENUTO.

Even Bandinello
 Who never yet spake well of any-
 thing,
 Speaks well of this; and yet he told
 the duke⁹⁰
 That, though I cast small figures well
 enough,
 I never could cast this.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

But you have done it,
 And proved Ser Bandinello a false
 prophet.
 That is the wisest way.

BENVENUTO.

And ah, that casting!
 What a wild scene it was, as late at
 night,
 A night of wind and rain, we heaped
 the furnace

With pine of Serristori, till the flames
 Caught in the rafters over us, and
 threatened
 To send the burning roof upon our
 heads;
 And from the garden side the wind
 and rain ¹⁰⁰
 Poured in upon us, and half quenched
 our fires.
 I was beside myself with desperation.
 A shudder came upon me, then a
 fever;
 I thought that I was dying, and was
 forced
 To leave the work-shop and to throw
 myself
 Upon my bed, as one who has no hope.
 And as I lay there, a deformed old
 man
 Appeared before me, and with dismal
 voice,
 Like one who doth exhort a criminal
 Led forth to death, exclaimed, "Poor
 Benvenuto, ¹¹⁰
 Thy work is spoiled! There is no
 remedy!"
 Then with a cry so loud it might have
 reached
 The heaven of fire, I bounded to my
 feet,
 And rushed back to my workmen.
 They all stood
 Bewildered and desponding; and I
 looked
 Into the furnace, and beheld the mass
 Half molten only, and in my despair
 I fed the fire with oak, whose terrible
 heat
 Soon made the sluggish metal shine
 and sparkle.
 Then followed a bright flash, and an
 explosion, ¹²⁰
 As if a thunderbolt had fallen among
 us.
 The covering of the furnace had been
 rent
 Asunder, and the bronze was flowing
 over;
 So that I straightway opened all the
 sluices
 To fill the mould. The metal ran like
 lava,
 Sluggish and heavy; and I sent my
 workmen
 To ransack the whole house, and bring
 together

My pewter plates and pans, two hun-
 dred of them,
 And cast them one by one into the
 furnace
 To liquefy the mass, and in a mo-
 ment ¹³⁰
 The mould was filled! I fell upon my
 knees
 And thanked the Lord; and then we
 ate and drank
 And went to bed, all hearty and con-
 tented.
 It was two hours before the break of
 day.
 My fever was quite gone.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

A strange adventure,
 That could have happened to no man
 alive
 But you, my Benvenuto.

BENVENUTO.

As my workmen said
 To major-domo Ricci afterward
 When he inquired of them: "'T was
 not a man, ¹³⁹
 But an express great devil."

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And the statue?

BENVENUTO.

Perfect in every part, save the right
 foot
 Of Perseus, as I had foretold the Duke.
 There was just bronze enough to fill
 the mould;
 Not a drop over, not a drop too little.
 I looked upon it as a miracle
 Wrought by the hand of God.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And now I see
 How you have turned your vices into
 virtues.

BENVENUTO.

But wherefore do I prate of this? I
 came
 To speak of other things. Duke Co-
 simo
 Through me invites you to return to
 Florence, ¹⁵⁰
 And offers you great honors, even to
 make you
 One of the Forty-Eight, his Senators.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

His Senators! That is enough. Since
 Florence
 Was changed by Clement Seventh
 from a Republic
 Into a Dukedom, I no longer wish
 To be a Florentine. That dream is
 ended.
 The Grand Duke Cosimo now reigns
 supreme;
 All liberty is dead. Ah, woe is me!
 I hoped to see my country rise to
 heights
 Of happiness and freedom yet un-
 reached¹⁶⁰
 By other nations, but the climbing
 wave
 Pauses, lets go its hold, and slides
 again
 Back to the common level, with a
 hoarse
 Death-rattle in its throat. I am too
 old
 To hope for better days. I will stay
 here
 And die in Rome. The very weeds,
 that grow
 Among the broken fragments of her
 ruins,
 Are sweeter to me than the garden
 flowers
 Of other cities; and the desolate ring
 Of the Campagna round about her
 walls¹⁷⁰
 Fairer than all the villas that encircle
 The towns of Tuscany.

BENVENUTO.

But your old friends!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

All dead by violence. Baccio Valori
 Has been beheaded; Guicciardini
 poisoned;
 Philippo Strozzi strangled in his
 prison.
 Is Florence then a place for honest
 men
 To flourish in? What is there to pre-
 vent
 My sharing the same fate?

BENVENUTO.

Why, this: if all
 Your friends are dead, so are your
 enemies.¹⁷⁹

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Is Aretino dead?

BENVENUTO.

He lives in Venice,
 And not in Florence.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

'T is the same to me.
 This wretched mountebank, whom
 flatterers
 Call the Divine, as if to make the
 word
 Unpleasant in the mouths of those who
 speak it
 And in the ears of those who hear it,
 sends me
 A letter written for the public eye,
 And with such subtle and infernal
 malice,
 I wonder at his wickedness. 'T is he
 Is the express great devil, and not
 you.
 Some years ago he told me how to
 paint¹⁹⁰
 The scenes of the Last Judgment.

BENVENUTO.

I remember.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Well, now he writes to me that, as a
 Christian,
 He is ashamed of the unbounded free-
 dom
 With which I represent it.

BENVENUTO.

Hypocrite!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

He says I show mankind that I am
 wanting
 In piety and religion, in proportion
 As I profess perfection in my art.
 Profess perfection? Why, 't is only
 men
 Like Bugiardini who are satisfied
 With what they do. I never am con-
 tent,²⁰⁰
 But always see the labor of my hand
 Fall short of my conception.

BENVENUTO.

I perceive
 The malice of this creature. He would
 taint you

With heresy, and in a time like this!
T is infamous!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I represent the angels
Without their heavenly glory, and the
saints
Without a trace of earthly modesty.

BENVENUTO.

Incredible audacity!

A spectacle at which all men would gaze
With half-averted eyes even in a
brothel.

BENVENUTO.

He is at home there, and he ought to
know
What men avert their eyes from in
such places;
From the Last Judgment chiefly, I
imagine. 22c

Benvenuto Cellini

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The heathen
Veiled their Diana with some drapery,
And when they represented Venus
naked 210
They made her by her modest attitude
Appear half clothed. But I, who am
a Christian,
Do so subordinate belief to art
That I have made the very violation
Of modesty in martyrs and in virgins

MICHAEL ANGELO.

But divine Providence will never
leave
The boldness of my marvellous work
unpunished.
And the more marvellous it is, the
more
'T is sure to prove the ruin of my fame!
And finally, if in this composition
I had pursued the instructions that he
gave me

Concerning heaven and hell and paradise,
 In that same letter, known to all the world,
 Nature would not be forced, as she is now,
 To feel ashamed that she invested me²³⁰
 With such great talent; that I stand myself
 A very idol in the world of art.
 He taunts me also with the Mausoleum
 Of Julius, still unfinished, for the reason
 That men persuaded the inane old man
 It was of evil augury to build
 His tomb while he was living; and he speaks
 Of heaps of gold this Pope bequeathed to me,
 And calls it robbery;—that is what he says.²³⁹
 What prompted such a letter?

BENVENUTO.

Vanity.
 He is a clever writer, and he likes
 To draw his pen, and flourish it in the face
 Of every honest man, as swordsmen do
 Their rapiers on occasion, but to show
 How skilfully they do it. Had you followed
 The advice he gave, or even thanked him for it,
 You would have seen another style of fence.
 'T is but his wounded vanity, and the wish
 To see his name in print. So give it not
 A moment's thought; it will soon be forgotten.²⁵⁰

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I will not think of it, but let it pass
 For a rude speech thrown at me in the street,
 As boys threw stones at Dante.

BENVENUTO.

And what answer
 Shall I take back to Grand Duke Cosimo?

He does not ask your labor or your service;
 Only your presence in the city of Florence,
 With such advice upon his work in hand
 As he may ask, and you may choose to give.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

You have my answer. Nothing he can offer
 Shall tempt me to leave Rome. My work is here,²⁶⁰
 And only here, the building of St. Peter's.
 What other things I hitherto have done
 Have fallen from me, are no longer mine;
 I have passed on beyond them, and have left them
 As milestones on the way. What lies before me,
 That is still mine, and while it is unfinished
 No one shall draw me from it, or persuade me,
 By promises of ease, or wealth, or honor,
 Till I behold the finished dome uprise
 Complete, as now I see it in my thought.²⁷⁰

BENVENUTO.

And will you paint no more?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

No more.

BENVENUTO.

'T is well
 Sculpture is more divine, and more like Nature,
 That fashions all her works in high relief,
 And that is sculpture. This vast ball, the Earth,
 Was moulded out of clay, and baked in fire;
 Men, women, and all animals that breathe
 Are statues and not paintings. Even the plants,
 The flowers, the fruits, the grasses, were first sculptured,
 And colored later. Painting is a lie,
 A shadow merely.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Truly, as you say,
Sculpture is more than painting. It
is greater 281
To raise the dead to life than to create
Phantoms that seem to live. The
most majestic
Of the three sister arts is that which
builds;
The eldest of them all, to whom the
others
Are but the handmaids and the servi-
tors,
Being but imitation, not creation.
Henceforth I dedicate myself to her.

BENVENUTO.

And no more from the marble hew
those forms 289
That fill us all with wonder?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Many statues
Will there be room for in my work.
Their station
Already is assigned them in my mind.
But things move slowly. There are
hindrances,
Want of material, want of means, de-
lays
And interruptions, endless interference
Of Cardinal Commissioners, and dis-
putes
And jealousies of artists, that annoy
me.
But I will persevere until the work
Is wholly finished, or till I sink down
Surprised by Death, that unexpected
guest, 300
Who waits for no man's leisure, but
steps in,
Unasked and unannounced, to put a
stop
To all our occupations and designs.
And then perhaps I may go back to
Florence;
This is my answer to Duke Cosimo.

VI

MICHAEL ANGELO'S STUDIO

MICHAEL ANGELO and URBINO.

MICHAEL ANGELO, *pausing in his work.*
Urbino, thou and I are both old men.
My strength begins to fail me.

URBINO.

Eccellenza,
That is impossible. Do I not see you
Attack the marble blocks with the
same fury
As twenty years ago?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

'T is an old habit.
I must have learned it early from my
nurse
At Setignano, the stone-mason's wife;
For the first sounds I heard were of
the chisel
Chipping away the stone.

URBINO.

At every stroke
You strike fire with your chisel.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Aye, because
The marble is too hard.

URBINO.

It is a block
That Topolino sent you from Carrara.
He is a judge of marble.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I remember.
With it he sent me something of his
making, —
A Mercury, with long body and short
legs,
As if by any possibility
A messenger of the gods could have
short legs.
It was no more like Mercury than you
are,
But rather like those little plaster fig-
ures
That peddlers hawk about the vil-
lages 20
As images of saints. But luckily
For Topolino, there are many people
Who see no difference between what
is best
And what is only good, or not even
good;
So that poor artists stand in their es-
teem
On the same level with the best, or
higher.

URBINO.

How Eccellenza laughed!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Poor Topolino !
All men are not born artists, nor will
labor
E'er make them artists.

URBINO.

No, no more
Than Emperors, or Popes, or Cardi-
nals.
One must be chosen for it. I have
been
Your color-grinder six and twenty
years,
And am not yet an artist.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Some have eyes
That see not ; but in every block of
marble
I see a statue, — see it as distinctly
As if it stood before me shaped and
perfect
In attitude and action. I have only
To hew away the stone walls that im-
prison
The lovely apparition, and reveal it
To other eyes as mine already see it.
But I grow old and weak. What wilt
thou do
When I am dead, Urbino ?

URBINO.

Eccellenza,
I must then serve another master.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Never !
Bitter is servitude at best. Already
So many years hast thou been serving
me ;
But rather as a friend than as a ser-
vant.
We have grown old together. Dost
thou think
So meanly of this Michael Angelo
As to imagine he would let thee serve,
When he is free from service ? Take
this purse,
Two thousand crowns in gold.

URBINO.

Two thousand crowns !

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ay, it will make thee rich. Thou
shalt not die
A beggar in a hospital.

URBINO.

Oh, Master !

MICHAEL ANGELO.

I cannot have them with me on the
journey
That I am undertaking. The last
garment
That men will make for me will have
no pockets.

URBINO, *kissing the hand of* MICHAEL
ANGELO.

My generous master !

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Hush !

URBINO.

My Providence !

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Not a word more. Go now to bed, old
man.
Thou hast served Michael Angelo.
Remember,
Henceforward thou shalt serve no
other master.

VII

THE OAKS OF MONTE LUCA

MICHAEL ANGELO, *alone in the woods.*

MICHAEL ANGELO.

How still it is among these ancient
oaks !
Surges and undulations of the air
Uplift the leafy boughs, and let them
fall
With scarce a sound. Such sylvan
quietudes
Become old age. These huge centen-
nial oaks,
That may have heard in infancy the
trumpets
Of Barbarossa's cavalry, deride
Man's brief existence, that with all
his strength
He cannot stretch beyond the hun-
dredth year.
This little acorn, turbaned like the
Turk,
Which with my foot I spurn, may be
an oak

Hereafter, feeding with its bitter mast
 The fierce wild-boar, and tossing in its
 arms
 The cradled nests of birds, when all
 the men
 That now inhabit this vast universe,
 They and their children, and their
 children's children,
 Shall be but dust and mould, and
 nothing more.
 Through openings in the trees I see
 below me
 The valley of Clitumnus, with its farms
 And snow-white oxen grazing in the
 shade
 Of the tall poplars on the river's brink.
 O Nature, gentle mother, tender nurse!
 I, who have never loved thee as I
 ought,
 But wasted all my years immured in
 cities,
 And breathed the stifling atmosphere
 of streets,
 Now come to thee for refuge. Here
 is peace.
 Yonder I see the little hermitages
 Dotting the mountain side with points
 of light,
 And here St. Julian's convent, like a
 nest

Of curlews, clinging to some windy
 cliff.
 Beyond the broad, illimitable plain
 Down sinks the sun, red as Apollo's
 quoit,
 That, by the envious Zephyr blown
 aside,
 Struck Hyacinthus dead, and stained
 the earth
 With his young blood, that blossomed
 into flowers.
 And now, instead of these fair del-
 ties,
 Dread demons haunt the earth; her-
 mits inhabit
 The leafy homes of sylvan Hamadry-
 ads;
 And jovial friars, rotund and rubi-
 cund,
 Replace the old Silenus with his ass.
 Here underneath these venerable oaks,
 Wrinkled and brown and gnarled like
 them with age,
 A brother of the monastery sits,
 Lost in his meditations. What may
 be
 The questions that perplex, the hopes
 that cheer him?—
 Good-evening, holy father.

MONK.

God be with you.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Pardon a stranger if he interrupt
Your meditations.

MONK.

It was but a dream, —
The old, old dream, that never will
come true;
The dream that all my life I have
been dreaming, 50
And yet is still a dream.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

All men have dreams.
I have had mine; but none of them
came true;
They were but vanity. Sometimes I
think
The happiness of man lies in pursu-
ing,
Not in possessing; for the things pos-
sessed
Lose half their value. Tell me of your
dream.

MONK.

The yearning of my heart, my sole de-
sire,
That like the sheaf of Joseph stands
upright,
While all the others bend and bow to
it;
The passion that torments me, and
that breathes 60
New meaning into the dead forms of
prayer,
Is that with mortal eyes I may behold
The Eternal City.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Rome?

MONK.

There is but one;
The rest are merely names. I think
of it
As the Celestial City, paved with
gold,
And sentinelled with angels.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Would it were.
I have just fled from it. It is be-
leaguered

By Spanish troops, led by the Duke
of Alva.

MONK.

But still for me 't is the Celestial City,
And I would see it once before I die. 70

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Each one must bear his cross.

MONK.

Were it a cross
That had been laid upon me, I could
bear it,
Or fall with it. It is a crucifix;
I am nailed hand and foot, and I am
dying!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

What would you see in Rome?

MONK.

His Holiness

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Him that was once the Cardinal Ca-
raffa?
You would but see a man of fourscore
years,
With sunken eyes, burning like car-
buncles,
Who sits at table with his friends for
hours,
Cursing the Spaniards as a race of
Jews 80
And miscreant Moors. And with what
soldiery
Think you he now defends the Eternal
City?

MONK.

With legions of bright angels.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

So he calls them;
And yet in fact these bright angelic
legions
Are only German Lutherans.

MONK, *crossing himself*.

Heaven protect us!

MICHAEL ANGELO.

What further would you see?

MONK.

The Cardinals,
Going in their gilt coaches to High
Mass.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Men do not go to Paradise in coaches.

MONK.

The catacombs, the convents, and the churches;

The ceremonies of the Holy Week ⁹⁰
In all their pomp, or, at the Epiphany,The feast of the Santissimo Bambino
At Ara Coeli. But I shall not see them.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

These pompous ceremonies of the Church

Are but an empty show to him who knows

The actors in them. Stay here in your convent,

For he who goes to Rome may see too much.

What would you further?

MONK.

I would see the painting
Of the Last Judgment in the Sistine Chapel.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The smoke of incense and of altar
candles ¹⁰⁰

Has blackened it already.

MONK.

Woe is me!
Then I would hear Allegri's Miserere,
Sung by the Papal choir.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

A dismal dirge!
I am an old, old man, and I have lived
In Rome for thirty years and more and know

The jarring of the wheels of that great world,

Its jealousies, its discords, and its strife.

Therefore I say to you, remain content

Here in your convent, here among your woods,

Where only there is peace. Go not to Rome. ¹¹⁰

There was of old a monk of Wittenberg

Who went to Rome; you may have heard of him;

His name was Luther; and you know what followed.

[*The convent bell rings.*]MONK, *rising.*

It is the convent bell; it rings for vespers.

Let us go in; we both will pray for peace.

VIII

THE DEAD CHRIST

MICHAEL ANGELO'S *Studio*. MICHAEL ANGELO, *with a light, working upon the Dead Christ. Midnight.*

MICHAEL ANGELO.

O Death, why is it I cannot portray
Thy form and features? Do I stand too near thee?

Or dost thou hold my hand, and draw me back,

As being thy disciple, not thy master? Let him who knows not what old age is like

Have patience till it comes, and he will know.

I once had skill to fashion Life and Death

And Sleep, which is the counterfeit of Death;

And I remember what Giovanni Strozzi

Wrote underneath my statue of the Night ¹⁰

In San Lorenzo, ah, so long ago!

Grateful to me is sleep! More grateful now

Than it was then; for all my friends are dead;

And she is dead, the noblest of them all.

I saw her face, when the great sculptor Death,

Whom men should call Divine, had at a blow

Stricken her into marble; and I kissed Her cold white hand. What was it

held me back

From kissing her fair forehead, and those lips,

Those dead, dumb lips? Grateful to me is sleep! ²⁰

Enter GIORGIO VASARI.

GIORGIO.

Good-evening, or good-morning, for
I know not
Which of the two it is.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

How came you in?

GIORGIO.

Why, by the door, as all men do.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Ascanio
Must have forgotten to bolt it.

GIORGIO.

Probably.
Am I a spirit, or so like a spirit,
That I could slip through bolted door
or window?

As I was passing down the street, I
saw

A glimmer of light, and heard the
well-known chink
Of chisel upon marble. So I entered,
To see what keeps you from your bed
so late. 30

MICHAEL ANGELO, *coming forward with
the lamp.*

You have been revelling with your
boon companions,
Giorgio Vasari, and you come to me
At an untimely hour.

GIORGIO.

The Pope hath sent me.
His Holiness desires to see again
The drawing you once showed him of
the dome
Of the Basilica.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

We will look for it.

GIORGIO.

What is the marble group that glim-
mers there
Behind you?

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Nothing, and yet everything, —
As one may take it. It is my own
tomb
That I am building.

GIORGIO.

Do not hide it from me.
By our long friendship and the love I
bear you, 41
Refuse me not!

MICHAEL ANGELO, *letting fall the
lamp.*

Life hath become to me
An empty theatre, — its lights extin-
guished,
The music silent, and the actors
gone;
And I alone sit musing on the scenes
That once have been. I am so old
that Death
Oft plucks me by the cloak, to come
with him;
And some day, like this lamp, shall I
fall down,
And my last spark of life will be ex-
tinguished.
Ah me! ah me! what darkness of
despair! 50
So near to death, and yet so far from
God.

"Faith wings the soul beyond the sky"

TRANSLATIONS

PRELUDE

*As treasures that men seek,
Deep buried in sea-sands,
Vanish if they but speak,
And elude their eager hands, —*

*So ye escape and slip,
O songs, and fade away,
When the word is on my lip
To interpret what ye say.*

*Were it not better, then,
To let the treasures rest
Hid from the eyes of men
Locked in their iron chest?*

*I have but marked the place,
But half the secret told,
That, following this slight trace,
Others may find the gold.*

FROM THE SPANISH

COPLAS DE MANRIQUE

ON let the soul her slumbers break,
Let thought be quickened, and awake
Awake to see
How soon this life is past and gone,
And death comes softly stealing on,
How silently!

Swiftly our pleasures glide away,
Our hearts recall the distant day
With many sighs;
The moments that are speeding fast
We heed not, but the past, — the
past,
More highly prize.

Onward its course the present keeps,
Onward the constant current sweeps,

Till life is done;
And, did we judge of time aright,
The past and future in their flight
Would be as one.

Let no one fondly dream again, 19
That Hope and all her shadowy train
Will not decay;
Fleeting as were the dreams of old,
Remembered like a tale that's told,
They pass away.

Our lives are rivers, gliding free
To that unfathomed, boundless sea,
The silent grave!
Thither all earthly pomp and boast
Roll, to be swallowed up and lost
In one dark wave. 30

Thither the mighty torrents stray,
Thither the brook pursues its way,
And tinkling rill.
There all are equal; side by side
The poor man and the son of pride
Lie calm and still.

I will not here invoke the throng
Of orators and sons of song,
The deathless few;
Fiction entices and deceives, 40
And, sprinkled o'er her fragrant
leaves,
Lies poisonous dew.

To One alone my thoughts arise,
The Eternal Truth, the Good and
Wise,
To Him I cry,
Who shared on earth our common lot,
But the world comprehended not
His deity.

This world is but the rugged road
Which leads us to the bright abode 50
Of peace above;
So let us choose that narrow way,
Which leads no traveller's foot astray
From realms of love.

Our cradle is the starting-place,
Life is the running of the race,
We reach the goal
When, in the mansions of the blest,
Death leaves to its eternal rest
The weary soul. 60

Did we but use it as we ought,
This world would school each wan-
dering thought
To its high state.
Faith wings the soul beyond the sky,
Up to that better world on high,
For which we wait.

Yes, the glad messenger of love,
To guide us to our home above,
The Saviour came;
Born amid mortal cares and fears, 70
He suffered in this vale of tears
A death of shame.

Behold of what delusive worth
The bubbles we pursue on earth,
The shapes we chase
Amid a world of treachery!
They vanish ere death shuts the eye,
And leave no trace.

Time steals them from us, chances
strange,
Disastrous accident, and change, 80
That come to all;
Even in the most exalted state,
Relentless sweeps the stroke of fate;
The strongest fall.

Tell me, the charms that lovers seek
In the clear eye and blushing cheek,
The hues that play
O'er rosy lip and brow of snow,
When hoary age approaches slow,
Ah; where are they? 90

The cunning skill, the curious arts.
The glorious strength that youth im-
parts
In life's first stage;
These shall become a heavy weight,
When Time swings wide his outward
gate
To weary age.

The noble blood of Gothic name,
Heroes emblazoned high to fame,
In long array;
How, in the onward course of time, 100
The landmarks of that race sublime
Were swept away!

Some, the degraded slaves of lust,
Prostrate and trampled in the dust,
Shall rise no more;

Others, by guilt and crime, maintain
The scutcheon, that, without a stain,
Their fathers bore.

Wealth and the high estate of pride,
With what untimely speed they glide,
How soon depart !
Bid not the shadowy phantoms stay,
The vassals of a mistress they,
Of fickle heart.

These gifts in Fortune's hands are
found ;
Her swift revolving wheel turns
round,
And they are gone !
No rest the inconstant goddess knows,
But changing, and without repose,
Still hurries on.

Even could the hand of avarice save
Its gilded baubles, till the grave
Reclaimed its prey,
Let none on such poor hopes rely ;
Life, like an empty dream, flits by,
And where are they ?

Earthly desires and sensual lust
Are passions springing from the dust,
They fade and die ;
But, in the life beyond the tomb,
They seal the immortal spirit's doom
Eternally !

The pleasures and delights, which
mask
In treacherous smiles life's serious
task,

What are they all
But the fleet coursers of the chase,
And death an ambush in the race,
Wherein we fall ?

No foe, no dangerous pass, we heed,
Brook no delay, but onward speed
With loosened rein ;
And, when the fatal snare is near,
We strive to check our mad career,
But strive in vain.

Could we new charms to age impart,
And fashion with a cunning art
The human face,
As we can clothe the soul with light,
And make the glorious spirit bright
With heavenly grace,

How busily each passing hour
Should we exert that magic power !
What ardor show,
To deck the sensual slave of sin,
Yet leave the freeborn soul within,
In weeds of woe !

Monarchs, the powerful and the
strong,
Famous in history and in song
Of olden time,
Saw, by the stern decrees of fate,
Their kingdoms lost, and desolate
Their race sublime.

Who is the champion ? who the strong ?
Pontiff and priest, and sceptred
throng ?
On these shall fall
As heavily the hand of Death,
As when it stays the shepherd's breath
Beside his stall.

I speak not of the Trojan name,
Neither its glory nor its shame
Has met our eyes ;
Nor of Rome's great and glorious dead,
Though we have heard so oft, and
read,
Their histories.

Little avails it now to know
Of ages passed so long ago,
Nor how they rolled ;
Our theme shall be of yesterday,
Which to oblivion sweeps away,
Like days of old.

Where is the King, Don Juan ? Where
Each royal prince and noble heir
Of Aragon ?
Where are the courtly gallantries ?
The deeds of love and high emprise,
In battle done ?

Tourney and joust, that charmed the
eye,
And scarf, and gorgeous panoply,
And nodding plume,
What were they but a pageant scene ?
What but the garlands, gay and green,
That deck the tomb ?

Where are the high-born dames, and
where
Their gay attire, and jewelled hair,

And odors sweet?
Where are the gentle knights, that
came
To kneel, and breathe love's ardent
flame,
Low at their feet?

Where is the song of Troubadour?
Where are the lute and gay tam-
bour 200
They loved of yore?
Where is the mazy dance of old,
The flowing robes, inwrought with
gold,
The dancers wore?

And he who next the sceptre swayed,
Henry, whose royal court displayed
Such power and pride,
Oh, in what winning smiles arrayed,
The world its various pleasures laid
His throne beside! 210

But oh, how false and full of guile
That world, which wore so soft a smile
But to betray!
She, that had been his friend before,
Now from the fated monarch tore
Her charms away.

The countless gifts, the stately walls,
The royal palaces, and halls,

All filled with gold;
Plate with armorial bearings
wrought, 220
Chambers with ample treasures
fraught
Of wealth untold;

The noble steeds, and harness bright,
And gallant lord, and stalwart knight,
In rich array,
Where shall we seek them now? Alas!
Like the bright dewdrops on the grass,
They passed away.

His brother, too, whose factious zeal
Unsurped the sceptre of Castle, 230
Unskilled to reign;
What a gay, brilliant court had he,
When all the flower of chivalry
Was in his train!

But he was mortal; and the breath
That flamed from the hot forge of
Death
Blasted his years;
Judgment of God! that flame by
thee,
When raging fierce and fearfully,
Was quenched in tears! 240

Spain's haughty Constable, the true
And gallant Master, whom we knew

"Spain's Champion"

Most loved of all;
 Breathe not a whisper of his pride.
 He on the gloomy scaffold died,
 Ignoble fall!

The countless treasures of his care,
 His villages and villas fair,
 His mighty power,
 What were they all but grief and
 shame, 250
 Tears and a broken heart, when came
 The parting hour?

His other brothers, proud and high,
 Masters, who, in prosperity,
 Might rival kings;
 Who made the bravest and the best
 The bondsmen of their high behest,
 Their underlings;

What was their prosperous estate,
 When high exalted and elate 260
 With power and pride?
 What, but a transient gleam of light,
 A flame, which, glaring at its height,
 Grew dim and died?

So many a duke of royal name,
 Marquis and count of spotless fame,
 And baron brave,
 That might the sword of empire wield,

All these, O Death, hast thou concealed
 In the dark grave! 270

Their deeds of mercy and of arms,
 In peaceful days, or war's alarms,
 When thou dost show,
 O Death, thy stern and angry face,
 One stroke of thy all-powerful mace
 Can overthrow.

Unnumbered hosts, that threaten nigh,
 Pennon and standard flaunting high,
 And flag displayed; 279
 High battlements intrenched around,
 Bastion, and moated wall, and mound,
 And palisade,

And covered trench, secure and deep,
 All these cannot one victim keep,
 O Death, from thee,
 When thou dost battle in thy wrath,
 And thy strong shafts pursue their
 path
 Unerringly.

O World! so few the years we live,
 Would that the life which thou dost
 give 290
 Were life indeed!
 Alas! thy sorrows fall so fast,
 Our happiest hour is when at last
 The soul is freed.

Our days are covered o'er with grief,
And sorrows neither few nor brief
Veil all in gloom ;
Left desolate of real good,
Within this cheerless solitude
No pleasures bloom. 300

Thy pilgrimage begins in tears,
And ends in bitter doubts and fears,
Or dark despair ;
Midway so many toils appear,
That he who lingers longest here
Knows most of care.

Thy goods are bought with many a
groan,
By the hot sweat of toil alone,
And weary hearts ;
Fleet-footed is the approach of woe, 310
But with a lingering step and slow
Its form departs.

And he, the good man's shield and
shade,
To whom all hearts their homage
paid,
As Virtue's son,
Roderic Manrique, he whose name
is written on the scroll of Fame,
Spain's champion ;

His signal deeds and prowess high
Demand no pompous eulogy, 320
Ye saw his deeds !
Why should their praise in verse be
sung ?
The name, that dwells on every tongue,
No minstrel needs.

To friends a friend ; how kind to all
The vassals of this ancient hall
And feudal fief !
To foes how stern a foe was he !
And to the valiant and the free
How brave a chief ! 330

What prudence with the old and wise :
What grace in youthful gayeties ;
In all how sage !
Benignant to the serf and slave,
He showed the base and falsely brave
A lion's rage.

His was Octavian's prosperous star,
The rush of Cæsar's conquering car
At battle's call ;

His, Scipio's virtue ; his, the skill 340
And the indomitable will
Of Hannibal.

His was a Trajan's goodness, his
A Titus' noble charities
And righteous laws ;
The arm of Hector, and the might
Of Tully, to maintain the right
In truth's just cause ;

The clemency of Antonine,
Aurelius' countenance divine, 350
Firm, gentle, still ;
The eloquence of Adrian,
And Theodosius' love to man,
And generous will ;

In tented field and bloody fray,
An Alexander's vigorous sway
And stern command ;
The faith of Constantine ; ay, more,
The fervent love Camillus bore
His native land. 360

He left no well-filled treasury,
He heaped no pile of riches high,
Nor massive plate ;
He fought the Moors, and, in their fall,
City and tower and castled wall
Were his estate.

Upon the hard-fought battle-ground,
Brave steeds and gallant riders found
A common grave ; 369
And there the warrior's hand did gain
The rents, and the long vassal train,
That conquest gave.

And if of old his halls displayed
The honored and exalted grade
His worth had gained,
So, in the dark, disastrous hour,
Brothers and bondsmen of his power
His hand sustained.

After high deeds, not left untold,
In the stern warfare which of old 380
'T was his to share,
Such noble leagues he made that more
And fairer regions than before
His guerdon were.

These are the records, half effaced,
Which, with the hand of youth, he
traced

On history's page ;
But with fresh victories he drew
Each fading character anew
In his old age. 390

By his unrivalled skill, by great
And veteran service to the state,
By worth adored,
He stood, in his high dignity,
The proudest knight of chivalry,
Knight of the Sword.

He found his cities and domains
Beneath a tyrant's galling chains
And cruel power ;
But, by fierce battle and blockade, 400
Soon his own banner was displayed
From every tower.

By the tried valor of his hand,
His monarch and his native land
Were nobly served ;
Let Portugal repeat the story,
And proud Castile, who shared the
glory
His arms deserved.

And when so oft, for weal or woe,
His life upon the fatal throw 410
Had been cast down ;
When he had served, with patriot
zeal,
Beneath the banner of Castile,
His sovereign's crown ;

And done such deeds of valor strong,
That neither history nor song
Can count them all ;
Then, on Ocaña's castled rock,
Death at his portal came to knock,
With sudden call, 420

Saying, " Good Cavalier, prepare
To leave this world of toil and care
With joyful mien ;
Let thy strong heart of steel this day
Put on its armor for the fray,
The closing scene.

" Since thou hast been, in battle-
strife,
So prodigal of health and life,
For earthly fame,
Let virtue nerve thy heart again ; 430
Loud on the last stern battle-plain
They call thy name.

" Think not the struggle that draws
near
Too terrible for man, nor fear
To meet the foe ;
Nor let thy noble spirit grieve,
Its life of glorious fame to leave
On earth below.

" A life of honor and of worth
Has no eternity on earth, 440
'T is but a name ;
And yet its glory far exceeds
That base and sensual life, which
leads
To want and shame.

" The eternal life, beyond the sky,
Wealth cannot purchase, nor the high
And proud estate ;
The soul in dalliance laid, the spirit
Corrupt with sin, shall not inherit
A joy so great. 450

" But the good monk, in cloistered
cell,
Shall gain it by his book and bell,
His prayers and tears ;
And the brave knight, whose arm en-
dures
Fierce battle, and against the Moors
His standard rears.

" And thou, brave knight, whose
hand has poured
The life-blood of the Pagan horde
O'er all the land,
In heaven shalt thou receive, at
length, 460
The guerdon of thine earthly strength
And dauntless hand.

" Cheered onward by this promise
sure,
Strong in the faith entire and pure
Thou dost profess,
Depart, thy hope is certainty,
The third, the better life on high
Shalt thou possess."

" O Death, no more, no more delay ;
My spirit longs to flee away, 470
And be at rest ;
The will of Heaven my will shall
be,
I bow to the divine decree,
To God's behest.

Bright, radiant, blest.

SONNETS

I

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

(EL BURN PASTOR)

BY LOPE DE VEGA

SHEPHERD ! who with thine amorous,
sylvan song
Hast broken the slumber that en-
compassed me,
Who mad'st thy crook from the
accursèd tree,
On which thy powerful arms were
stretched so long!

And pass the gloomy nights of win-
ter there ?

Oh, strange delusion, that I did not
greet

Thy blest approach! and oh, to
Heaven how lost,

If my ingratitude's unkindly frost
Has chilled the bleeding wounds
upon thy feet!

How oft my guardian angel gently
cried,

"Soul, from thy casement look, and
thou shalt see

How he persists to knock and wait
for thee!"

And, oh! how often to that voice of
sorrow,

"To-morrow we will open," I re-
plied,

And when the morrow came I an-
swered still, "To-morrow."

III

THE NATIVE LAND

(EL PATRIO CIELO)

BY FRANCISCO DE ALDANA

CLEAR fount of light! my native land
 on high,
 Bright with a glory that shall never
 fade!
 Mansion of truth! without a veil or
 shade,
 Thy holy quiet meets the spirit's
 eye.
 There dwells the soul in its ethereal
 essence,
 Gasping no longer for life's feeble
 breath;
 But, sentinelled in heaven, its glori-
 ous presence
 With pitying eye beholds, yet fears
 not, death.
 Belovèd country! banished from thy
 shore,
 A stranger in this prison-house of
 clay,
 The exiled spirit weeps and sighs
 for thee!
 Heavenward the bright perfections I
 adore
 Direct, and the sure promise cheers
 the way,
 That, whither love aspires, there
 shall my dwelling be.

IV

THE IMAGE OF GOD

(LA IMAGEN DE DIOS)

BY FRANCISCO DE ALDANA

O LORD! who seest, from yon starry
 height,
 Centred in one the future and the
 past,
 Fashioned in thine own image, see
 how fast
 The world obscures in me what once
 was bright!
 Eternal Sun! the warmth which thou
 hast given,
 To cheer life's flowery April, fast
 decays;

Yet, in the hoary winter of my days,
 Forever green shall be my trust in
 Heaven.

Celestial King! oh let thy presence
 pass

Before my spirit, and an image fair
 Shall meet that look of mercy from
 on high,

As the reflected image in a glass

Doth meet the look of him who
 seeks it there,

And owes its being to the gazer's
 eye.

V

THE BROOK

(A UN ARROYUELO)

ANONYMOUS

LAUGH of the mountain!—lyre of
 bird and tree!

Pomp of the meadow! mirror of the
 morn!

The soul of April, unto whom are
 born

The rose and jessamine, leaps wild
 in thee!

Although, where'er thy devious cur-
 rent strays,

The lap of earth with gold and
 silver teems.

To me thy clear proceeding brighter
 seems

Than golden sands, that charm each
 shepherd's gaze,

How without guile thy bosom, all
 transparent

As the pure crystal, lets the curious
 eye

Thy secrets scan, thy smooth, round
 pebbles count!

How, without malice murmuring,
 glides thy current!

O sweet simplicity of days gone by!
 Thou shun'st the haunts of man, to
 dwell in limpid fount!

ANCIENT SPANISH BALLADS

In the chapter with this title in *Outre-Mer*, be-
 sides illustrations from Byron and Lockhart are
 the three following examples, contributed by Mr.
 Longfellow.

"Where'er thy devious current strays"

III

"One of the finest of the historic ballads is that which describes Bernardo's march to Roncesvalles. He sallies forth 'with three thousand Leonese and more,' to protect the glory and freedom of his native land. From all sides, the peasantry of the land flock to the hero's standard."

THE peasant leaves his plough afield,
The reaper leaves his hook,
And from his hand the shepherd-boy
Lets fall the pastoral crook.

The young set up a shout of joy,
The old forget their years,
The feeble man grows stout of heart,
No more the craven fears.

All rush to Bernard's standard,
And on liberty they call; 10
They cannot brook to wear the yoke,
When threatened by the Gaul.

"Free were we born," 't is thus they
cry,
"And willingly pay we
The duty that we owe our king,
By the divine decree.

"But God forbid that we obey
The laws of foreign knaves,
Tarnish the glory of our sires,
And make our children slaves. 20

"Our hearts have not so craven grown,
So bloodless all our veins,
So vigorless our brawny arms,
As to submit to chains.

"Has the audacious Frank, forsooth,
Subdued these seas and lands?
Shall he a bloodless victory have?
No, not while we have hands.

"He shall learn that the gallant Leo-
nese
Can bravely fight and fall, 30
But that they know not how to yield;
They are Castilians all.

"Was it for this the Roman power
Of old was made to yield
Unto Numantia's valiant hosts
On many a bloody field?

"Shall the bold lions that have bathed
Their paws in Libyan gore,
Crouch basely to a feebler foe,
And dare the strife no more? 40

"Let the false king sell town and
tower,
But not his vassals free;
For to subdue the free-born soul
No royal power hath he!"

VIDA DE SAN MILLAN

BY GONZALO DE BERCIO

AND when the kings were in the field,
— their squadrons in array, —
With lance in rest they onward pressed
to mingle in the fray;
But soon upon the Christians fell a
terror of their foes, —
These were a numerous army, — a
little handful those.

And while the Christian people stood
in this uncertainty,
Upward to heaven they turned their
eyes, and fixed their thoughts
on high;
And there two figures they beheld, all
beautiful and bright,
Even than the pure new-fallen snow
their garments were more white.

They rode upon two horses more white
than crystal sheen,
And arms they bore such as before no
mortal man had seen; 10
The one, he held a crosier, — a pon-
tiff's mitre wore;
The other held a crucifix, — such man
ne'er saw before.

Their faces were angelical, celestial
forms had they, —
And downward through the fields of
air they urged their rapid way;
They looked upon the Moorish host
with fierce and angry look,
And in their hands, with dire portent,
their naked sabres shook.

The Christian host, beholding this,
straightway take heart again;
They fall upon their bended knees,
all resting on the plain,
And each one with his clenched fist to
smite his breast begins,
And promises to God on high he will
forsake his sins. 20

And when the heavenly knights drew
near unto the battle-ground,
They dashed among the Moors and
dealt unerring blows around ;
Such deadly havoc there they made
the foremost ranks along,
A panic terror spread unto the hind-
most of the throng.

Together with these two good knights,
the champions of the sky,
The Christians rallied and began to
smite full sore and high ;
The Moors raised up their voices and
by the Koran swore
That in their lives such deadly fray
they ne'er had seen before.

Down went the misbelievers, — fast
sped the bloody fight, —
Some ghastly and dismembered lay,
and some half dead with fright :
Full sorely they repented that to the
field they came, ³¹
For they saw that from the battle they
should retreat with shame.

Another thing befell them, — they
dreamed not of such woes, —
The very arrows that the Moors shot
from their twanging bows
Turned back against them in their
flight and wounded them full
sore,
And every blow they dealt the foe was
paid in drops of gore.

Now he that bore the crosier, and the
papal crown had on,
Was the glorified Apostle, the brother
of Saint John ;
And he that held the crucifix, and
wore the monkish hood,
Was the holy San Millan of Cogolla's
neighborhood.

SAN MIGUEL, THE CONVENT

(SAN MIGUEL DE LA TUMBA)

BY GONZALO DE BERCEO .

SAN MIGUEL DE LA TUMBA is a con-
vent vast and wide ;
The sea encircles it around, and groans
on every side :

It is a wild and dangerous place, and
many woes betide
The monks who in that burial-place
in penitence abide.

Within those dark monastic walls,
amid the ocean flood,
Of pious, fasting monks there dwelt a
holy brotherhood :
To the Madonna's glory there an altar
high was placed,
And a rich and costly image the sa-
cred altar graced.

Exalted high upon a throne, the Virgin
Mother smiled,
And, as the custom is, she held within
her arms the Child ;
The kings and wise men of the East
were kneeling by her side ;
Attended was she like a queen whom
God had sanctified.

Descending low before her face a
screen of feathers hung, —
A *moscader*, or fan for flies, 't is called
in vulgar tongue ;
From the feathers of the peacock's
wing 't was fashioned bright
and fair,
And glistened like the heaven above
when all its stars are there.

It chanced that, for the people's sins,
fell the lightning's blasting
stroke :
Forth from all four the sacred walls
the flames consuming broke ;
The sacred robes were all consumed,
missal and holy book ;
And hardly with their lives the monks
their crumbling walls forsook.

But though the desolating flame raged
fearfully and wild,
It did not reach the Virgin Queen, it
did not reach the Child ;
It did not reach the feathery screen
before her face that shone,
Nor injure in a farthing's worth the
image or the throne.

The image it did not consume, it did
not burn the screen ;
Even in the value of a hair they were
not hurt, I ween ;

Not even the smoke did reach them,
nor injure more the shrine
Than the bishop hight Don Tello has
been hurt by hand of mine.

SONG

SHE is a maid of artless grace,
Gentle in form, and fair of face.

Tell me, thou ancient mariner,
That sailest on the sea,
If ship, or sail, or evening star
Be half so fair as she!

Tell me, thou gallant cavalier,
Whose shining arms I see,
If steel, or sword, or battle-field
Be half so fair as she!

Tell me, thou swain, that guard'st thy
flock
Beneath the shadowy tree,
If flock, or vale, or mountain-ridge
Be half so fair as she!

SANTA TERESA'S BOOK-MARK

(LETRILLA QUE LLEVABA POR REGISTRO
EN SU BREVIARIO)

BY SANTA TERESA DE AVILA

LET nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee ;
All things are passing ;
God never changeth ;
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things ;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting ;
Alone God sufficeth.

FROM THE CANCIONEROS

I

EYES SO TRISTFUL, EYES SO
TRISTFUL

(OJOS TRISTES, OJOS TRISTES)

BY DIEGO DE SALDAÑA

EYES so tristful, eyes so tristful,
Heart so full of care and cumber,

I was lapped in rest and slumber,
Ye have made me wakeful, wistful !
In this life of labor endless
Who shall comfort my distresses ?
Querulous my soul and friendless
In its sorrow shuns caresses.
Ye have made me, ye have made me
Querulous of you, that care not,
Eyes so tristful, yet I dare not
Say to what ye have betrayed me.

II

SOME DAY, SOME DAY

(ALGUNA VEZ)

BY CRISTOBAL DE GASTILLEJO.

SOME day, some day,
O troubled breast,
Shalt thou find rest.
If Love in thee
To grief give birth,
Six feet of earth
Can more than he ;
There calm and free
And unoppressed
Shalt thou find rest.

The unattained
In life at last,
When life is passed,
Shall all be gained ;
And no more pained,
No more distressed,
Shalt thou find rest.

III

COME, O DEATH, SO SILENT
FLYING

(VEN, MUERTE TAN ESCONDIDA)

BY EL COMMENDADOR ESCRIVA

COME, O Death, so silent flying
That unheard thy coming be,
Lest the sweet delight of dying
Bring life back again to me.
For thy sure approach perceiving,
In my constancy and pain
I new life should win again,
Thinking that I am not living.
So to me, unconscious lying,

All unknown thy coming be,
 Lest the sweet delight of dying
 Bring life back again to me.
 Unto him who finds thee hateful,
 Death, thou art inhuman pain;
 But to me, who dying gain,
 Life is but a task ungrateful.
 Come, then, with my wish complying,
 All unheard thy coming be,
 Lest the sweet delight of dying
 Bring life back again to me.

IV

GLOVE OF BLACK IN WHITE
HAND BARE

GLOVE of black in white hand bare,
 And about her forehead pale
 Wound a thin, transparent veil,
 That doth not conceal her hair;
 Sovereign attitude and air,
 Cheek and neck alike displayed,
 With coquettish charms arrayed,
 Laughing eyes and fugitive; —
 This is killing men that live,
 'T is not mourning for the dead.

FROM THE SWEDISH AND
DANISHPASSAGES FROM FRITHIOF'S
SAGA

BY ESAIAS TEGNÉR

I

FRITHIOF'S HOMESTEAD

THREE miles extended around the
 fields of the homestead, on three
 sides
 Valleys and mountains and hills, but
 on the fourth side was the
 ocean.
 Birch woods crowned the summits, but
 down the slope of the hillsides
 Flourished the golden corn, and man-
 high was waving the rye-field.
 Lakes, full many in number, their
 mirror held up for the moun-
 tains,
 Held for the forests up, in whose
 depths the high-horned rein-
 deers

Had their kingly walk, and drank of
 a hundred brooklets.

But in the valleys widely around,
 there fed on the greensward
 Herds with shining hides and udders
 that longed for the milk-pail.

'Mid these scattered, now here and
 now there, were numberless
 flocks of

Sheep with fleeces white, as thou seest
 the white-looking stray clouds,

Flock-wise spread o'er the heavenly
 vault, when it bloweth in spring-
 time.

Coursers two times twelve, all mettle
 some, fast fettered storm-winds,
 Stamping stood in the line of stalls,
 and tugged at their fodder.

Knotted with red were their manes,
 and their hoofs all white with
 steel shoes.

Th' banquet-hall, a house by itself,
 was timbered of hard fir.

Not five hundred men (at ten times
 twelve to the hundred)

Filled up the roomy hall, when as-
 sembled for drinking, at Yule-
 tide.

Thorough the hall, as long as it was,
 went a table of holm-oak,

Polished and white, as of steel; the
 columns twain of the High-seat.

Stood at the end thereof, two gods
 carved out of an elm-tree;

Odin with lordly look, and Frey with
 the sun on his frontlet.

Lately between the two, on a bear-
 skin (the skin it was coal-black,
 Scarlet-red was the throat, but the
 paws were shodden with silver).

Thorsten sat with his friends, Hospi-
 tality sitting with Gladness.

Oft, when the moon through the
 cloud-rack flew, related the old
 man

Wonders from distant lands he had
 seen, and cruises of Vikings

Far away on the Baltic, and Sea of
 the West, and the White Sea.

Hushed sat the listening bench, and
 their glances hung on the gray-
 beard's

Lips, as a bee on the rose; but the
 Scald was thinking of Brage,

Where, with his silver beard, and
 runes on his tongue, he is seated

Under the leafy beech, and tells a tra-
dition by Mimer's
Ever-murmuring wave, himself a liv-
ing tradition.

Midway the floor (with thatch was it
strewn) burned ever the fire-
flame

Glad on its stone-built hearth; and
thorough the wide-mouthed
smoke-flue

Looked the stars, those heavenly
friends, down into the great
hall.

Round the walls, upon nails of steel,
were hanging in order

Breastplate and helmet together, and
here and there among them

Downward lightened a sword, as in
winter evening a star shoots.

More than helmets and swords the
shields in the hall were resplen-
dent,

White as the orb of the sun, or white⁴⁰
as the moon's disk of silver.

Ever and anon went a maid round the
board, and filled up the drink-
horns,

Ever she cast down her eyes and
blushed; in the shield her re-
flection

Blushed, too, even as she; this glad-
dened the drinking champions.

II

A SLEDGE-RIDE ON THE ICE

KING RING with his queen to the ban-
quet did fare.

On the lake stood the ice so mirror-
clear.

"Fare not o'er the ice," the stranger
cries;

"It will burst, and full deep the cold
bath lies."

"The king drowns not easily," Ring
outsake;

"He who's afraid may go round the
lake."

Threatening and dark looked the
stranger round,

His steel shoes with haste on his feet
be bound.

The sledge-horse starts forth strong
and free;

He snorteth flames, so glad is he.

"Strike out," screamed the king, "my
trotter good,

Let us see if thou art of Sleipner's
blood."

They go as a storm goes over the lake,
No heed to his queen doth the old
man take.

But the steel-shod champion standeth
not still,

He passeth them by as swift as he
will.

He carves many runes in the frozen
tide,

Fair Ingeborg o'er her own name doth
glide.

III

FRITHIOF'S TEMPTATION

SPRING is coming, birds are twitter-
ing, forests leaf, and smiles the
sun,

And the loosened torrents downward,
singing, to the ocean run;

Glowing like the cheek of Freya, peep-
ing rosebuds 'gin to ope,

And in human hearts awaken love of
life, and joy, and hope.

Now will hunt the ancient monarch,
and the queen shall join the
sport:

Swarming in its gorgeous splendor, is
assembled all the court;

Bows ring loud, and quivers rattle,
stallions paw the ground alway,

And, with hoods upon their eyelids,
scream the falcons for their
prey.

See, the Queen of the chase advances!
Frithiof, gaze not at the sight!

Like a star upon a spring-cloud sits
she on her palfrey white.

Half of Freya, half of Rota, yet more
beauteous than these two,

And from her light hat of purple
wave aloft the feathers blue.

Gaze not at her eyes' blue heaven,
 gaze not at her golden hair!
 Oh beware! her waist is slender, full
 her bosom is, beware!
 Look not at the rose and lily on her
 cheek that shifting play,
 List not to the voice belovèd, whisper-
 ing like the wind of May.

Now the huntsman's band is ready.
 Hurrah! over hill and dale!
 Horns ring, and the hawks right up-
 ward to the hall of Odin sail.
 All the dwellers in the forest seek in
 fear their cavern homes,
 But, with spear outstretched before
 her, after them the Valkyr
 comes. 20

Then threw Frithiof down his mantle,
 and upon the greensward
 spread,
 And the ancient king so trustful laid
 on Frithiof's knee his head,
 Slept as calmly as the hero sleepeth,
 after war's alarm,
 On his shield, or as an infant sleeps
 upon its mother's arm.

As he slumbers, hark! there sings a
 coal-black bird upon the bough;
 "Hasten, Frithiof, slay the old man,
 end your quarrel at a blow:
 Take his queen, for she is thine, and
 once the bridal kiss she gave,
 Now no human eye beholds thee, deep
 and silent is the grave."

Frithiof listens; hark! there sings
 a snow-white bird upon the
 bough:
 "Though no human eye beholds thee,
 Odin's eye beholds thee now. 30
 Coward! wilt thou murder sleep, and
 a defenceless old man slay!
 Whatsoe'er thou winn'st, thou canst
 not win a hero's fame this
 way."

Thus the two wood-birds did warble:
 Frithiof took his war-sword
 good,
 With a shudder hurled it from him,
 far into the gloomy wood.
 Coal-black bird flies down to Nastrand,
 but on light, unfolded wings,

Like the tone of harps, the other
 sounding towards the sun, up-
 springs.

Straight the ancient king awakens.
 "Sweet has been my sleep,"
 he said;

"Pleasantly sleeps one in the shadow,
 guarded by a brave man's blade.
 But where is thy sword, O stranger?
 Lightning's brother, where is
 he?"

Who thus parts you, who should never
 from each other parted be!" 40

"It avails not," Frithiof answered;
 "in the North are other swords:
 Sharp, O monarch! is the sword's
 tongue, and it speaks not peace-
 ful words;

Murky spirits dwell in steel blades,
 spirits from the Niffelhem;
 Slumber is not safe before them, silver
 locks but anger them."

IV

FRITHIOF'S FAREWELL

No more shall I see
 In its upward motion
 The smoke of the Northland. Man is
 a slave:
 The fates decree.
 On the waste of the ocean
 There is my fatherland, there is my
 grave.

Go not to the strand,
 Ring, with thy bride,
 After the stars spread their light
 through the sky.
 Perhaps in the sand,
 Washed up by the tide,
 The bones of the outlawed Viking
 may lie.

Then, quoth the king,
 "'T is mournful to hear
 A man like a whimpering maiden
 cry.
 The death-song they sing
 Even now in mine ear.
 What avails it? He who is born must
 die."

. . . "May, with her cap crowned with roses"

THE CHILDREN OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

BY ISAIAS TEGNER

PENTECOST, day of rejoicing, had
come. The church of the vil-
lage

Gleaming stood in the morning's sheen.
On the spire of the belfry,
Decked with a brazen cock, the
friendly flames of the Spring-
sun

Glanced like the tongues of fire, be-
held by Apostles aforetime.

Clear was the heaven and blue, and
May, with her cap crowned
with roses,

Stood in her holiday dress in the fields,
and the wind and the brooklet
Murmured gladness and peace, God's-
peace! with lips rosy-tinted

Whispered the race of the flowers, and
merry on balancing branches

Birds were singing their carol, a jubi-
lant hymn to the Highest.

Swept and clean was the churchyard.
Adorned like a leaf-woven
arbor

Stood its old-fashioned gate; and
within upon each cross of iron

Hung was a fragrant garland, new
twined by the hands of affection.

Even the dial, that stood on a mound
among the departed,

(There full a hundred years had it
stood,) was embellished with
blossoms.

Like to the patriarch hoary, the sage
of his kith and the hamlet,

Who on his birthday is crowned by
children and children's children,

So stood the ancient prophet, and
mute with his pencil of iron

Marked on the tablet of stone, and
measured the time and its
changes,

While all around at his feet, an eter-
nity slumbered in quiet.

Also the church within was adorned,
for this was the season

When the young, their parents' hope,
and the loved-ones of heaven,

Should at the foot of the altar renew
the vows of their baptism.

Therefore each nook and corner was
swept and cleaned, and the
dust was

Blown from the walls and ceiling, and
 from the oil-painted benches.
 There stood the church like a garden;
 the Feast of the Leafy Pavilions
 Saw we in living presentment. From
 noble arms on the church wall
 Grew forth a cluster of leaves, and the
 preacher's pulpit of oak-wood
 Budded once more anew, as aforetime
 the rod before Aaron.
 Wreathed thereon was the Bible with
 leaves, and the dove, washed
 with silver,
 Under its canopy fastened, had on it
 a necklace of wind-flowers. 30
 But in front of the choir, round the
 altar-piece painted by Hörberg,
 Crept a garland gigantic; and bright-
 curling tresses of angels
 Peeped, like the sun from a cloud,
 from out of the shadowy leaf-
 work.
 Likewise the lustre of brass, new-
 polished, blinked from the ceil-
 ing,
 And for lights there were lilies of Pen-
 tecost set in the sockets.

Loud rang the bells already; the
 thronging crowd was assembled
 Far from valleys and hills, to list to
 the holy preaching.
 Hark! then roll forth at once the
 mighty tones of the organ,
 Hover like voices from God, aloft like
 invisible spirits.
 Like as Elias in heaven, when he cast
 from off him his mantle, 40
 So cast off the soul its garments of
 earth; and with one voice
 Chimed in the congregation, and sang
 an anthem immortal
 Of the sublime Wallin, of David's
 harp in the North-land
 Tuned to the choral of Luther; the
 song on its mighty pinions
 Took every living soul, and lifted it
 gently to heaven,
 And each face did shine like the Holy
 One's face upon Tabor.
 Lo! there entered then into the church
 the Reverend Teacher.
 Father he hight and he was in the par-
 ish; a Christianly plainness
 Clothed from his head to his feet the
 old man of seventy winters.

Friendly was he to behold, and glad
 as the heralding angel 50
 Walked he among the crowds, but
 still a contemplative grandeur
 Lay on his forehead as clear as on
 moss-covered gravestone a sun-
 beam.
 As in his inspiration (an evening twi-
 light that faintly
 Gleams in the human soul, even now,
 from the day of creation)
 Th' Artist, the friend of heaven,
 imagines Saint John when in
 Patmos,
 Gray, with his eyes uplifted to heaven,
 so seemed then the old man:
 Such was the glance of his eye, and
 such were his tresses of silver.
 All the congregation arose in the pews
 that were numbered,
 But with a cordial look, to the right
 and the left hand, the old man,
 Nodding all hail and peace, disap-
 peared in the innermost chan-
 cel. 60

Simply and solemnly now proceeded
 the Christian service,
 Singing and prayer, and at last an
 ardent discourse from the old
 man.
 Many a moving word and warning,
 that out of the heart came,
 Fell like the dew of the morning, like
 manna on those in the desert.
 Then, when all was finished, the
 Teacher reëntered the chancel,
 Followed therein by the young. The
 boys on the right had their
 places,
 Delicate figures, with close-curling
 hair and cheeks rosy-blooming.
 But on the left of these there stood the
 tremulous lilies,
 Tinged with the blushing light of the
 dawn, the diffident maidens, —
 Folding their hands in prayer, and
 their eyes cast down on the
 pavement. 70
 Now came, with question and answer,
 the catechism. In the beginning
 Answered the children with troubled
 and faltering voice, but the old
 man's
 Glances of kindness encouraged them
 soon, and the doctrines eternal

Flowed, like the waters of fountains,
 so clear from lips unpolluted.
 Each time the answer was closed, and
 as oft as they named the Re-
 deemer,
 Lowly louted the boys, and lowly the
 maidens all courtesied.
 Friendly the Teacher stood, like an
 angel of light there among
 them,
 And to the children explained the
 holy, the highest, in few words,
 Thorough, yet simple and clear, for
 sublimity always is simple,
 Both in sermon and song, a child can
 seize on its meaning. 80
 E'en as the green-growing bud unfolds
 when Springtide approaches,
 Leaf by leaf puts forth, and, warmed
 by the radiant sunshine,
 Blushes with purple and gold, till at
 last the perfected blossom
 Opens its odorous chalice, and rocks
 with its crown in the breezes,
 So was unfolded here the Christian
 lore of salvation,
 Line by line from the soul of child-
 hood. The fathers and mothers
 Stood behind them in tears, and were
 glad at the well-worded answer.

Now went the old man up to the
 altar; — and straightway trans-
 figured
 (So did it seem unto me) was then the
 affectionate Teacher.
 Like the Lord's Prophet sublime, and
 awful as Death and as Judg-
 ment 90
 Stood he, the God-commissioned, the
 soul-searcher, earthward de-
 scending.
 Glances, sharp as a sword, into hearts
 that to him were transparent
 Shot he; his voice was deep, was low
 like the thunder afar off.
 So on a sudden transfigured he stood
 there, he spake and he ques-
 tioned.

"This is the faith of the Fathers, the
 faith the Apostles delivered,
 This is moreover the faith whereunto
 I baptized you, while still ye
 Lay on your mothers' breasts, and
 nearer the portals of heaven.

Slumbering received you then the Holy
 Church in its bosom;
 Wakened from sleep are ye now, and
 the light in its radiant splendor
 Downward rains from the heaven; —
 to-day on the threshold of child-
 hood 100
 Kindly she frees you again, to ex-
 amine and make your election.
 For she knows naught of compulsion,
 and only conviction desireth.
 This is the hour of your trial, the turn-
 ing-point of existence,
 Seed for the coming days; without re-
 vocation departeth
 Now from your lips the confession.
 Bethink ye, before ye make an-
 swer!
 Think not, oh think not with guile to
 deceive the questioning Teacher.
 Sharp is his eye to-day, and a curse
 ever rests upon falsehood.
 Enter not with a lie on Life's journey;
 the multitude hears you,
 Brothers and sisters and parents, what
 dear upon earth is and holy
 Standeth before your sight as a wit-
 ness; the Judge everlasting 110
 Looks from the sun down upon you,
 and angels in waiting beside
 him
 Grave your confession in letters of fire
 upon tablets eternal.
 Thus, then, — believe ye in God, in the
 Father who this world created?
 Him who redeemed it, the Son, and the
 Spirit where both are united?
 Will ye promise me here, (a holy pro-
 mise!) to cherish
 God more than all things earthly, and
 every man as a brother?
 Will ye promise me here, to confirm
 your faith by your living,
 Th' heavenly faith of affection! to
 hope, to forgive, and to suffer,
 Be what it may your condition, and
 walk before God in upright-
 ness?
 Will ye promise me this before God
 and men?" — With a clear
 voice 120
 Answered the young men Yes! and
 Yes! with lips softly-breathing
 Answered the maidens eke. Then dis-
 solved from the brow of the
 Teacher

Clouds with the lightnings therein, and
 he spake in accents more gentle,
 Soft as the evening's breath, as harps
 by Babylon's rivers.

"Hail, then, hail to you all! To
 the heirdom of heaven be ye
 welcome!
 Children no more from this day, but
 by covenant brothers and sisters!
 Yet, — for what reason not children?
 Of such is the kingdom of hea-
 ven.

Resteth the Christian Faith; she her-
 self from on high is descended.
 Strong as a man and pure as a child,
 is the sum of the doctrine,
 Which the Divine One taught, and suf-
 fered and died on the cross for.
 Oh, as ye wander this day from child-
 hood's sacred asylum
 Downward, and ever downward, and
 deeper in Age's chill valley,
 Oh, how soon will ye come, — too
 soon! — and long to turn back-
 ward

"Stood he, the God-communed"

Here upon earth an assemblage of
 children, in heaven one Father,
 Ruling them all as his household, —
 forgiving in turn and chastising,
 That is of human life a picture, as
 Scripture has taught us. 130
 Blest are the pure before God! Upon
 purity and upon virtue

Up to its hill-tops again, to the sun-
 illumined, where Judgment
 Stood like a father before you, and
 Pardon, clad like a mother,
 Gave you her hand to kiss, and the
 loving heart was forgiven, 140
 Life was a play and your hands grasped
 after the roses of heaven!

Seventy years have I lived already;
 the Father eternal
 Gave me gladness and care; but the
 loveliest hours of existence,
 When I have steadfastly gazed in their
 eyes, I have instantly known
 them,
 Known them all again; — they were
 my childhood's acquaintance.
 Therefore take from henceforth, as
 guides in the paths of existence,
 Prayer, with her eyes raised to heaven,
 and Innocence, bride of man's
 childhood.
 Innocence, child beloved, is a guest
 from the world of the blessed,
 Beautiful, and in her hand a lily; on
 life's roaring billows ¹⁴⁹
 Swings she in safety, she heedeth them
 not, in the ship she is sleeping.
 Calmly she gazes around in the tur-
 moil of men; in the desert
 Angels descend and minister unto her;
 she herself knoweth
 Naught of her glorious attendance;
 but follows faithful and humble,
 Follows so long as she may her friend;
 oh do not reject her,
 For she cometh from God and she
 holdeth the keys of the heavens.
 Prayer is Innocence' friend; and will-
 ingly flieth incessant
 'Twixt the earth and the sky, the
 carrier-pigeon of heaven.
 Son of Eternity, fettered in Time, and
 an exile, the Spirit
 Tugs at his chains evermore, and
 struggles like flame ever up-
 ward.
 Still he recalls with emotion his Father's
 manifold mansions, ¹⁶⁰
 Thinks of the land of his fathers,
 where blossomed more freshly
 the flowerets,
 Shone a more beautiful sun, and he
 played with the wingèd angels.
 Then grows the earth too narrow, too
 close; and homesick for heaven
 Longs the wanderer again; and the
 Spirit's longings are worship;
 Worship is called his most beautiful
 hour, and its tongue is entreaty.
 Ah! when the infinite burden of life
 descendeth upon us,
 Crushes to earth our hope, and, under
 the earth, in the graveyard,

Then it is good to pray unto God; for
 his sorrowing children
 Turns He ne'er from his door, but He
 heals and helps and consoles
 them.
 Yet is it better to pray when all things
 are prosperous with us, ¹⁷⁰
 Pray in fortunate days, for life's most
 beautiful Fortune
 Kneels before the Eternal's throne;
 and with hands interfolded,
 Praises thankful and moved the only
 giver of blessings.
 Or do ye know, ye children, one bless-
 ing that comes not from Hea-
 ven?
 What has mankind forsooth, the poor!
 that it has not received?
 Therefore, fall in the dust and pray!
 The seraphs adoring
 Cover with pinions six their face in
 the glory of Him who
 Hung his masonry pendent on naught,
 when the world He created.
 Earth declareth his might, and the
 firmament utters his glory.
 Races blossom and die, and stars fall
 downward from heaven, ¹⁸⁰
 Downward like withered leaves; at
 the last stroke of midnight, mil-
 lenniums
 Lay themselves down at his feet, and
 He sees them, but counts them
 as nothing.
 Who shall stand in his presence? The
 wrath of the Judge is terrific,
 Casting the insolent down at a glance.
 When He speaks in his anger
 Hillocks skip like the kid, and moun-
 tains leap like the roebuck.
 Yet, — why are ye afraid, ye children?
 This awful avenger,
 Ah! is a merciful God! God's voice
 was not in the earthquake,
 Not in the fire, nor the storm, but it
 was in the whispering breezes.
 Love is the root of creation; God's
 essence; worlds without num-
 ber
 Lie in his bosom like children; He
 made them for this purpose
 only. ¹⁹⁰
 Only to love and to be loved again,
 He breathed forth his spirit
 Into the slumbering dust, and upright
 standing, it laid its

know Him ?

!

will follow spontaneous

Even as day does the sun; the Right
 from the Good is an offspring,
 Love in a bodily shape; and Christian
 works are no more than
 Animate Love and Faith, as flowers
 are the animate Springtide.
 Works do follow us all unto God;
 there stand and bear witness
 Not what they seemed, — but what
 they were only. Blessed is he
 who
 Hears their confession secure; they
 are mute upon earth until
 death's hand
 Opens the mouth of the silent. Ye
 children, does Death e'er alarm
 you?
 Death is the brother of Love, twin-
 brother is he, and is only 250
 More austere to behold. With a kiss
 upon lips that are fading
 Takes he the soul and departs, and,
 rocked in the arms of affection,
 Places the ransomed child, new born,
 'fore the face of its father.
 Sounds of his coming already I hear,
 — see dimly his pinions,
 Swart as the night, but with stars
 strewn upon them! I fear not
 before him.

Death is only release, and in mercy is
 mute. On his bosom
 Freer breathes, in its coolness, my
 breast; and face to face stand-
 ing
 Look I on God as He is, a sun unpol-
 luted by vapors;
 Look on the light of the ages I loved,
 the spirits majestic,
 Nobler, better than I; they stand by
 the throne all transfigured, 260
 Vested in white, and with harps of
 gold, and are singing an an-
 them,
 Writ in the climate of heaven, in the
 language spoken by angels.
 You, in like manner, ye children be-
 loved, He one day shall gather,
 Never forgets He the weary; — then
 welcome, ye loved ones here-
 after!
 Meanwhile forget not the keeping of
 vows, forget not the promise,
 Wander from holiness onward to ho-
 liness; 'earth shall ye heed
 not;
 Earth is but dust and heaven is light;
 I have pledged you to heaven.
 God of the universe, hear me! thou
 fountain of Love everlasting,

"Faith is the sum of life"

Hark to the voice of thy servant! I
send up my prayer to thy hea-
ven!

Let me hereafter not miss at thy throne
one spirit of all these, ²⁷⁰

Whom thou hast given me here! I
have loved them all like a father.

May they bear witness for me, that I
taught them the way of salva-
tion,

Faithful, so far as I knew, of thy
word; again may they know me,

Fall on their Teacher's breast, and be-
fore thy face may I place them,

Pure as they now are, but only more
tried, and exclaiming with glad-
ness,

Father, lo! I am here, and the children,
whom thou hast given me!"

Weeping he spake in these words;
and now at the beck of the old
man

Knee against knee they knitted a
wreath round the altar's enclos-
ure.

Kneeling he read then the prayers of
the consecration, and softly ²⁷⁹

With him the children read; at the
close, with tremulous accents,

Asked he the peace of heaven, a bene-
diction upon them.

Now should have ended his task for
the day; the following Sun-
day

Was for the young appointed to eat of
the Lord's holy Supper.

Sudden, as struck from the clouds,
stood the Teacher silent and
laid his

Hand on his forehead, and cast his
looks upward; while thoughts
high and holy

Flew through the midst of his soul,
and his eyes glanced with won-
derful brightness.

"On the next Sunday, who knows!
perhaps I shall rest in the grave-
yard!
Some one perhaps of yourselves, a lily
broken untimely,
Bow down his head to the earth; why
delay I? the hour is accom-
plished.
Warm is the heart;—I will! for to-
day grows the harvest of hea-
ven.
What I began accomplish I now; what
failing therein is
I, the old man, will answer to God and
the reverend father.
Say to me only, ye children, ye deni-
zens new-come in heaven,
Are ye ready this day to eat of the
bread of Atonement?
What it denoteth, that know ye full
well, I have told it you often.

Of the new covenant symbol it is, of
Atonement a token,
Stablished between earth and heaven.
Man by his sins and transgres-
sions
Far has wandered from God, from his
essence. 'T was in the begin-
ning
Fast by the Tree of Knowledge he fell,
and it hangs its crown o'er the
Fall to this day; in the Thought is the
Fall; in the Heart the Atone-
ment.
Infinite is the fall, — the Atonement
infinite likewise.
See! behind me, as far as the old man
remembers, and forward,
Far as Hope in her flight can reach
with her wearied pinions,
Sin and Atonement incessant go
through the lifetime of mortals,

Sin is brought forth full-grown; but
 Atonement sleeps in our bosoms
 Still as the cradled babe; and dreams
 of heaven and of angels,
 Cannot awake to sensation; is like the
 tones in the harp's strings,
 Spirits imprisoned, that wait evermore
 the deliverer's finger.
 Therefore, ye children beloved, descended
 the Prince of Atonement,
 Woke the slumberer from sleep, and
 she stands now with eyes all
 resplendent, ³¹⁰
 Bright as the vault of the sky, and
 battles with Sin and o'ercomes
 her.
 Downward to earth He came and,
 transfigured, thence reascended,
 Not from the heart in like wise, for
 there He still lives in the
 Spirit,
 Loves and atones evermore. So long
 as Time is, is Atonement.
 Therefore with reverence take this
 day her visible token.
 Tokens are dead if the things live not.
 The light everlasting
 Unto the blind is not, but is born of
 the eye that has vision.
 Neither in bread nor in wine, but in
 the heart that is hallowed
 Lieth forgiveness enshrined; the in-
 tention alone of amendment
 Fruits of the earth ennoble to hea-
 venly things, and removes all ³²⁰
 Sin and the guerdon of sin. Only
 Love with his arms wide ex-
 tended,
 Penitence weeping and praying; the
 Will that is tried, and whose
 gold flows
 Purified forth from the flames; in a
 word, mankind by Atonement
 Breaketh Atonement's bread, and
 drinketh Atonement's wine-cup.
 But he who cometh up hither, un-
 worthy, with hate in his bo-
 som,
 Scoffing at men and at God, is guilty
 of Christ's blessed body,
 And the Redeemer's blood! To him-
 self he eateth and drinketh
 Death and doom! And from this, pre-
 serve us, thou heavenly Father!

Are ye ready, ye children, to eat of
 the bread of Atonement?" ³²⁹
 Thus with emotion he asked, and to-
 gether answered the children,
 "Yes!" with deep sobs interrupted.
 Then read he the due supplica-
 tions,
 Read the Form of Communion, and in
 chimed the organ and anthem:
 "O Holy Lamb of God, who takest
 away our transgressions,
 Hear us! give us thy peace! have
 mercy, have mercy upon us!"
 Th' old man, with trembling hand,
 and heavenly pearls on his eye-
 lids,
 Filled now the chalice and paten, and
 dealt round the mystical sym-
 bols.
 Oh, then seemed it to me as if God,
 with the broad eye of mid-
 day,
 Clearer looked in at the windows, and
 all the trees in the churchyard
 Bowed down their summits of green,
 and the grass on the graves' gan
 to shiver.
 But in the children (I noted it well; I
 knew it) there ran a ³⁴⁰
 Tremor of holy rapture along through
 their ice-cold members.
 Decked like an altar before them,
 there stood the green earth, and
 above it
 Heaven opened itself, as of old before
 Stephen; they saw there
 Radiant in glory the Father, and on
 his right hand the Redeemer.
 Under them hear they the clang of
 harp-strings, and angels from
 gold clouds
 Beckon to them like brothers, and fan
 with their pinions of purple.
 Closed was the Teacher's task, and
 with heaven in their hearts and
 their faces,
 Up rose the children all, and each
 bowed him, weeping full sorely,
 Downward to kiss that reverend hand,
 but all of them pressed he
 Moved to his bosom, and laid, with a
 prayer, his hands full of bless-
 ings, ³⁵⁰
 Now on the holy breast, and now on
 the innocent tresses.

KING CHRISTIAN

A NATIONAL SONG OF DENMARK

KING CHRISTIAN stood by the lofty
mast

In mist and smoke;
His sword was hammering so fast,
Through Gothic helm and brain it
passed;
Then sank each hostile hulk and mast,
In mist and smoke.

"Now is the hour!"
"Fly!" shouted they, "for shelter
fly!
Of Denmark's Juel who can defy
The power?"

North Sea! a glimpse of Wessel rent
Thy murky sky!
Then champions to thine arms were
sent:
Terror and Death glared where he
went;

King Christian

"Fly!" shouted they, "fly, he who can!
Who braves of Denmark's Christian
The stroke?"

Nils Juel gave heed to the tempest's
roar,
Now is the hour!
He hoisted his blood-red flag once
more,
And smote upon the foe full sore,
And shouted loud, through the tem-
pest's roar,

From the waves was heard a wail,
that rent
Thy murky sky!
From Denmark thunders Tordenskiold,
Let each to Heaven commend his soul,
And fly!
Path of the Dane to fame and might!
Dark-rolling wave!
Receive thy friend, who, scorning
flight,
Goes to meet danger with despite,

"A Knight full well equipped"

Proudly as thou the tempest's might,
 Dark-rolling wave!
 And amid pleasures and alarms,
 And war and victory, be thine arms
 My grave!

THE ELECTED KNIGHT

SIR OLUF he rideth over the plain,
 Full seven miles broad and seven
 miles wide,
 But never, ah never can meet with
 the man
 A tilt with him dare ride.

He saw under the hillside
 A Knight full well equipped;
 His steed was black, his helm was
 barred;
 He was riding at full speed.

He wore upon his spurs
 Twelve little golden birds;
 Anon he spurred his steed with a
 clang,
 And there sat all the birds and
 sang.

He wore upon his mail
 Twelve little golden wheels;

Anon in eddies the wild wind blew,
And round and round the wheels
they flew.

He wore before his breast
A lance that was poised in rest ;
And it was sharper than diamond-
stone,
It made Sir Oluf's heart to groan. 20

He wore upon his helm
A wreath of ruddy gold ;
And that gave him the Maidens Three,
The youngest was fair to behold.

Sir Oluf questioned the Knight eftsoon
If he were come from heaven down ;
"Art thou Christ of Heaven," quoth
he,
"So will I yield me unto thee."

"I am not Christ the Great,
Thou shalt not yield thee yet ; 30
I am an Unknown Knight,
Three modest Maidens have me be-
dight."

"Art thou a Knight elected,
And have three maidens thee be-
dight ;
So shalt thou ride a tilt this day,
For all the Maidens' honor !"

The first tilt they together rode
They put their steeds to the test ;
The second tilt they together rode
They proved their manhood best. 40

The third tilt they together rode
Neither of them would yield ;
The fourth tilt they together rode
They both fell on the field.

Now lie the lords upon the plain,
And their blood runs unto death ;
Now sit the Maidens in the high tower,
The youngest sorrows till death.

CHILDHOOD

BY JENS IMMANUEL BAGGESEN

THERE was a time when I was very
small,
When my whole frame was but an
ell in height ;

Sweetly, as I recall it, tears do fall,
And therefore I recall it with de-
light.

I sported in my tender mother's arms,
And rode a-horseback on best fa-
ther's knee ;
Alike were sorrows, passions and
alarms,
And gold, and Greek, and love, un-
known to me.

Then seemed to me this world far less
in size,
Likewise it seemed to me less
wicked far ;
Like points in heaven, I saw the stars
arise,
And longed for wings that I might
catch a star.

I saw the moon behind the island
fade,
And thought, "Oh, were I on that
island there,
I could find out of what the moon is
made,
Find out how large it is, how round,
how fair !"

Wondering, I saw God's sun, through
western skies,
Sink in the ocean's golden lap at
night,
And yet upon the morrow early
rise,
And paint the eastern heaven with
crimson light ;

And thought of God, the gracious
Heavenly Father,
Who made me, and that lovely sun
on high,
And all those pearls of heaven thick-
strung together,
Dropped, clustering, from his hand
o'er all the sky.

With childish reverence, my young
lips did say
The prayer my pious mother taught
to me :
"O gentle God ! oh, let me strive al-
way
Still to be wise, and good, and fol-
low thee !"

So prayed I for my father and my
mother,
And for my sister, and for all the
town;
The king I knew not, and the beggar-
brother,
Who, bent with age, went, sighing,
up and down.

They perished, the blithe days of boy-
hood perished,
And all the gladness, all the peace I
knew!
Now have I but their memory, fondly
cherished; —
God! may I never lose that too!

FROM THE GERMAN

THE HAPPIEST LAND

THERE sat one day in quiet,
By an alehouse on the Rhine,
Four hale and hearty fellows,
And drank the precious wine.

The landlord's daughter filled their
cups,
Around the rustic board;
Then sat they all so calm and still,
And spake not one rude word.

But when the maid departed,
A Swabian raised his hand,
And cried, all hot and flushed with
wine,
"Long live the Swabian land!

"The greatest kingdom upon earth
Cannot with that compare;
With all the stout and hardy men
And the nut-brown maidens there."

"Ha!" cried a Saxon, laughing,
And dashed his beard with wine;
"I had rather live in Lapland,
Than that Swabian land of thine!

"The goodliest land on all this earth,
It is the Saxon land!
There have I as many maidens
As fingers on this hand!"

"Hold your tongues! both Swabian
and Saxon!"
A bold Bohemian cries;

"If there's a heaven upon this earth,
In Bohemia it lies.

"There the tailor blows the flute,
And the cobbler blows the horn,
And the miner blows the bugle,
Over mountain gorge and bourn."

And then the landlord's daughter
Up to heaven raised her hand,
And said, "Ye may no more con-
tend, —
There lies the happiest land!"

THE WAVE

BY CHRISTOPH AUGUST TIEDGE

"WHITHER, thou turbid wave?
Whither, with so much haste,
As if a thief wert thou?"

"I am the Wave of Life,
Stained with my margin's dust;
From the struggle and the strife
Of the narrow stream I fly
To the Sea's immensity,
To wash from me the slime
Of the muddy banks of Time."

THE DEAD

BY ERNST STOCKMANN

How they so softly rest,
All they the holy ones,
Unto whose dwelling-place
Now doth my soul draw near!
How they so softly rest,
All in their silent graves,
Deep to corruption
Slowly down-sinking!

And they no longer weep,
Here, where complaint is still!
And they no longer feel,
Here, where all gladness flies!
And by the cypresses
Softly o'ershadowed,
Until the Angel
Calls them, they slumber!

THE BIRD AND THE SHIP

BY WILHELM MÜLLER

"THE rivers rush into the sea,
By castle and town they go;

The winds behind them merrily
Their noisy trumpets blow.

"The clouds are passing far and high,
We little birds in them play;
And everything, that can sing and fly,
Goes with us, and far away.

"I greet thee, bonny boat! Whither,
or whence,
With thy fluttering golden
band?"—

"I greet thee, little bird! To the
wide sea
I haste from the narrow land.

"Full and swollen is every sail;
I see no longer a hill,
I have trusted all to the sounding gale,
And it will not let me stand still.

"And wilt thou, little bird, go with
us?
Thou mayest stand on the mainmast
tall,
For full to sinking is my house
With merry companions all."—

"I need not and seek not company,
Bonny boat, I can sing all alone;
For the mainmast tall too heavy am I,
Bonny boat, I have wings of my
own.

"High over the sails, high over the
mast,
Who shall gainsay these joys?
When thy merry companions are still,
at last,
Thou shalt hear the sound of my
voice.

"Who neither may rest, nor listen
may,
God bless them every one!
I dart away, in the bright blue day,
And the golden fields of the sun.

"Thus do I sing my weary song,
Wherever the four winds blow;
And this same song, my whole life
long,
Neither Poet nor Printer may
know."

WHITHER?

BY WILHELM MÜLLER

I HEARD a brooklet gushing
From its rocky fountain near,
Down into the valley rushing,
So fresh and wondrous clear.

I know not what came o'er me,
Nor who the counsel gave:
But I must hasten downward,
All with my pilgrim-stave;

"From the struggle and the strife
Of the narrow stream I fly"

Downward, and ever farther,
And ever the brook beside;
And ever fresher murmured,
And ever clearer, the tide.

Is this the way I was going?
Whither, O brooklet, say!
Thou hast, with thy soft murmur,
Murmured my senses away.

What do I say of a murmur?
That can no murmur be;
'T is the water-nymphs, that are sing-
ing
Their roundelays under me.

Let them sing, my friend, let them
murmur,
And wander merrily near;
The wheels of a mill are going
In every brooklet clear.

BEWARE!

(HÜT DU DICH!)

I KNOW a maiden fair to see,
Take care!
She can both false and friendly be,
Beware! Beware!
Trust her not,
She is fooling thee!

She has two eyes, so soft and brown,
Take care!
She gives a side-glance and looks
down,
Beware! Beware!
Trust her not,
She is fooling thee!

And she has hair of a golden hue,
Take care!
And what she says, it is not true,
Beware! Beware!
Trust her not,
She is fooling thee!

She has a bosom as white as snow,
Take care!
She knows how much it is best to
show,
Beware! Beware!
Trust her not,
She is fooling thee!

She gives thee a garland woven fair,
Take care!
It is a fool's-cap for thee to wear,
Beware! Beware!
Trust her not,
She is fooling thee!

SONG OF THE BELL

BELL! thou soundest merrily,
When the bridal party
To the church doth hie!
Bell! thou soundest solemnly,
When, on Sabbath morning,
Fields deserted lie!

Bell! thou soundest merrily;
Teldest thou at evening,
Bed-time draweth nigh!
Bell! thou soundest mournfully,
Teldest thou the bitter
Parting hath gone by!

Say! how canst thou mourn?
How canst thou rejoice?
Thou art but metal dull!
And yet all our sorrowings,
And all our rejoicings,
Thou dost feel them all!

God hath wonders many,
Which we cannot fathom,
Placed within thy form!
When the heart is sinking,
Thou alone canst raise it,
Trembling in the storm!

THE CASTLE BY THE SEA

BY JOHANN LUDWIG UHLAND

"HAST thou seen that lordly castle,
That Castle by the Sea?
Golden and red above it
The clouds float gorgeously.

"And fain it would stoop downward
To the mirrored wave below;
And fain it would soar upward
In the evening's crimson glow."

"Well have I seen that castle,
That Castle by the Sea,
And the moon above it standing,
And the mist rise solemnly."

"The winds and the waves of ocean,
Had they a merry chime?
Didst thou hear, from those lofty
chambers
The harp and the minstrel's rhyme?"

"The winds and the waves of ocean,
They rested quietly,
But I heard on the gale a sound of
wail,
And tears came to mine eye."

"And sawest thou on the turrets
Th
And

Ar

"Lo
A

To the barrier of the fight
Rode at last a sable Knight.

"Sir Knight! your name and scutch-
eon, say!"

"Should I speak it here,
Ye would stand aghast with fear:
I am a Prince of mighty sway!"

When he rode into the lists,
The arch of heaven grew black with
mists, 20

. . . "that lordly castle"

Resplendent as the morning sun,
Beaming with golden hair?"

"Well saw I the ancient parents,
Without the crown of pride;
They were moving slow, in weeds of
woe,
No maiden was by their side!"

THE BLACK KNIGHT

BY JOHAN LUDWIG UHLAND

"T WAS Pentecost, the Feast of Glad-
ness,
When woods and fields put off all sad-
ness,

Thus began the King and spake:
"So from the halls
Of ancient Hofburg's walls,
A luxuriant Spring shall break."

Drums and trumpets echo loudly,
Wave the crimson banners proudly,
From balcony the King looked on;
In the play of spears, 10
Fell all the cavaliers,
Before the monarch's stalwart son.

And the castle 'gan to rock;
At the first blow,
Fell the youth from saddle-bow,
Hardly rises from the shock.

Pipe and viol call the dances,
Torch-light through the high halls
glances;
Waves a mighty shadow in;
With manner bland
Doth ask the maiden's hand,
Doth with her the dance begin. 20

Danced in sable iron sark,
Danced a measure weird and dark,
Coldly clasped her limbs around;
From breast and hair
Down fall from her the fair
Flowerets, faded, to the ground.

To the sumptuous banquet came
Every Knight and every Dame;
'Twixt son and daughter all dis-
traught,
With mournful mind 40
The ancient King reclined,
Gazed at them in silent thought.

Pale the children both did look,
But the guest a beaker took :
"Golden wine will make you
whole!"

The children drank,
Gave many a courteous thank:
"Oh, that draught was very cool!"

Each the father's breast embraces,
Son and daughter; and their faces so
Colorless grow utterly;
Whichever way
Looks the fear-struck father gray,
He beholds his children die.

"Woe! the blessed children both
Takest thou in the joy of youth;
Take me, too, the joyless father!"
Spake the grim Guest,
From his hollow, cavernous breast:
"Roses in the spring I gather!" 60

SONG OF THE SILENT LAND

BY JOHANN GAUDENZ VON SALIS-
SEEWIS

INTO the Silent Land!
Ah! who shall lead us thither?

Clouds in the evening sky more darkly
gather,
And shattered wrecks lie thicker on
the strand.

Who leads us with a gentle hand
Thither, oh, thither,
Into the Silent Land?

Into the Silent Land!
To you, ye boundless regions
Of all perfection! Tender morning
visions
Of beauteous souls! The Future's
pledge and band!
Who in Life's battle firm doth
stand,
Shall bear Hope's tender blossoms
Into the Silent Land!

O Land! O Land!
For all the broken-hearted
The mildest herald by our fate allot-
ted,
Beckons, and with inverted torch doth
stand
To lead us with a gentle hand
To the land of the great Departed,
Into the Silent Land!

THE LUCK OF EDENHALL

BY JOHANN LUDWIG UHLAND

OF Edenhall, the youthful Lord
 Bids sound the festal trumpet's call;
 He rises at the banquet board,
 And cries, 'mid the drunken revellers
 all,
 "Now bring me the Luck of Eden-
 hall!"

The butler hears the words with pain,
 The house's oldest seneschal,
 Takes slow from its silken cloth again
 The drinking-glass of crystal tall;
 They call it the Luck of Edenhall. 10

Then said the Lord: "This glass to
 praise,
 Fill with red wine from Portugal!"
 The graybeard with trembling hand
 obeys;
 A purple light shines over all,
 It beams from the Luck of Edenhall.

Then speaks the Lord, and waves it
 light:
 "This glass of flashing crystal tall
 Gave to my sires the Fountain-Sprite;
 She wrote in it, *If this glass doth
 fall,*
Farewell then, O Luck of Edenhall! 20

"'T was right a goblet the Fate should
 be
 Of the joyous race of Edenhall!
 Deep draughts drink we right will-
 ingly;
 And willingly ring, with merry call,
 Kling! klang! to the Luck of Eden-
 hall!"

First rings it deep, and full, and mild,
 Like to the song of a nightingale;
 Then like the roar of a torrent wild;
 Then mutters at last like the thunder's
 fall,
 The glorious Luck of Edenhall. 30

"For its keeper takes a race of might,
 The fragile goblet of crystal tall;
 It has lasted longer than is right;
 Kling! klang! — with a harder blow
 than all
 Will I try the Luck of Edenhall!"

As the goblet ringing flies apart,
 Suddenly cracks the vaulted hall;
 And through the rift, the wild flames
 start;
 The guests in dust are scattered all,
 With the breaking Luck of Eden-
 hall! 40

In storms the foe, with fire and sword;
 He in the night had scaled the wall,
 Slain by the sword lies the youthful
 Lord,
 But holds in his hand the crystal tall,
 The shattered Luck of Edenhall.

On the morrow the butler gropes
 alone,
 The graybeard in the desert hall,
 He seeks his Lord's burnt skeleton,
 He seeks in the dismal ruin's fall
 The shards of the Luck of Edenhall. 50

"The stone wall," saith he, "doth fall
 aside,
 Down must the stately columns fall;
 Glass is this earth's Luck and Pride;
 In atoms shall fall this earthly ball
 One day like the Luck of Edenhall!"

THE TWO LOCKS OF HAIR

BY GUSTAV PFIZER

A YOUTH, light-hearted and content,
 I wander through the world;
 Here, Arab-like, is pitched my tent
 And straight again is furled.

Yet oft I dream, that once a wife
 Close in my heart was locked,
 And in the sweet repose of life
 A blessed child I rocked.

I wake! Away that dream, — away!
 Too long did it remain!
 So long, that both by night and day
 It ever comes again.

The end lies ever in my thought;
 To a grave so cold and deep
 The mother beautiful was brought;
 Then dropt the child asleep.

But now the dream is wholly o'er,
 I bathe mine eyes and see;

. . . "that vision mild"

And wander through the world once
more,
A youth so light and free.

Two locks — and they are wondrous
fair —

Left me that vision mild ;
The brown is from the mother's hair,
The blond is from the child.

And when I see that lock of gold,
Pale grows the evening-red ;
And when the dark lock I behold,
I wish that I were dead.

THE HEMLOCK TREE

O HEMLOCK tree ! O hemlock tree !
how faithful are thy branches !
Green not alone in summer time,
But in the winter's frost and rime !
O hemlock tree ! O hemlock tree !
how faithful are thy branches !

O maiden fair ! O maiden fair ! how
faithless is thy bosom !
To love me in prosperity,
And leave me in adversity !
O maiden fair ! O maiden fair ! how
faithless is thy bosom !

The nightingale, the nightingale, thou
tak'st for thine example !
So long as summer laughs she sings,
But in the autumn spreads her
wings.

The nightingale, the nightingale, thou
tak'st for thine example !

The meadow brook, the meadow
brook, is mirror of thy false-
hood !

It flows so long as falls the rain,
In drought its springs soon dry
again.

The meadow brook, the meadow
brook, is mirror of thy false-
hood !

ANNIE OF THARAW

BY SIMON DACH

ANNIE of Tharaw, my true love of
old,
She is my life, and my goods, and my
gold.

Annie of Tharaw her heart once again
To me has surrendered in joy and in
pain.

Annie of Tharaw, my riches, my good,
Thou, O my soul, my flesh, and my
blood!

Then come the wild weather, come
sleet or come snow,
We will stand by each other, however
it blow.

Oppression, and sickness, and sorrow,
and pain
Shall be to our true love as links to the
chain.

As the palm-tree standeth so straight
and so tall,
The more the hail beats, and the more
the rains fall, —

So love in our hearts shall grow
mighty and strong,
Through crosses, through sorrows,
through manifold wrong.

Shouldst thou be torn from me to
wander alone
In a desolate land where the sun is
scarce known, —

Through forests I'll follow, and where
the sea flows,
Through ice, and through iron,
through armies of foes.

Annie of Tharaw, my light and my
sun,
The threads of our two lives are woven
in one.

Whate'er I have bidden thee thou hast
obeyed,
Whatever forbidden thou hast not
gainsaid.

How in the turmoil of life can love
stand,
Where there is not one heart, and one
mouth, and one hand?

Some seek for dissension, and trouble,
and strife;
Like a dog and a cat live such man
and wife.

Annie of Tharaw, such is not our love;
Thou art my lambkin, my chick, and
my dove.

Whate'er my desire is, in thine may
be seen;
I am king of the household, and thou
art its queen.

It is this, O my Annie, my heart's
sweetest rest,
That makes of us twain but one soul
in one breast.

This turns to a heaven the hut where
we dwell;
While wrangling soon changes a home
to a hell.

THE STATUE OVER THE
CATHEDRAL DOOR

BY JULIUS MOSEN

FORMS of saints and kings are stand-
ing
The cathedral door above;
Yet I saw but one among them
Who hath soothed my soul with
love.

In his mantle, — wound about him,
As their robes the sowers wind, —
Bore he swallows and their fledglings,
Flowers and weeds of every kind.

And so stands he calm and childlike,
High in wind and tempest wild;
Oh, were I like him exalted,
I would be like him a child!

And my songs, — green leaves and
blossoms, —
To the doors of heaven would bear,
Calling even in storm and tempest,
Round me still these birds of air.

THE LEGEND OF THE CROSS-BILL

BY JULIUS MOSEN

On the cross the dying Saviour
Heavenward lifts his eyelids calm,
Feels, but scarcely feels, a trembling
In his pierced and bleeding palm.

And by all the world forsaken,
Sees He how with zealous care
At the ruthless nail of iron
A little bird is striving there.

Stained with blood and never tiring,
With its beak it doth not cease,
From the cross 't would free the Sa-
viour,
Its Creator's Son release.

And the Saviour speaks in mildness:
"Blest be thou of all the good!
Bear, as token of this moment,
Marks of blood and holy rood!"

And that bird is called the crossbill;
Covered all with blood so clear,
In the groves of pine it singeth
Songs, like legends, strange to hear.

THE SEA HATH ITS PEARLS

BY HEINRICH HEINE

The sea hath its pearls,
The heaven hath its stars;
But my heart, my heart,
My heart hath its love.

Great are the sea and the heaven,
Yet greater is my heart;
And fairer than pearls and stars
Flashes and beams my love.

Thou little, youthful maiden,
Come unto my great heart;
My heart, and the sea, and the heaven
Are melting away with love!

POETIC APHORISMS

FROM THE SINNGEDICHTE OF FRIED-
RICH VON LOGAU

MONEY

WHEREUNTO is money good?
Who has it not wants hardihood,

Who has it has much trouble and care,
Who once has had it has despair.

THE BEST MEDICINES

Joy and Temperance and Repose
Slam the door on the doctor's nose.

SIN

Man-like is it to fall into sin,
Fiend-like is it to dwell therein,
Christ-like is it for sin to grieve,
God-like is it all sin to leave.

POVERTY AND BLINDNESS

A blind man is a poor man, and blind
a poor man is;
For the former seeth no man, and the
latter no man sees.

LAW OF LIFE

Live I, so live I,
To my Lord heartily,
To my Prince faithfully,
To my Neighbor honestly,
Die I, so die I.

CREEDS

Lutheran, Popish, Calvinistic, all
these creeds and doctrines three
Extant are; but still the doubt is,
where Christianity may be.

THE RESTLESS HEART

A mill-stone and the human heart are
driven ever round;
If they have nothing else to grind,
they must themselves be
ground.

CHRISTIAN LOVE

Whilom Love was like a fire, and
warmth and comfort it bespoke;
But, alas! it now is quenched, and
only bites us, like the smoke.

ART AND TACT

Intelligence and courtesy not always
are combined;
Often in a wooden house a golden
room we find.

RETRIBUTION

Though the mills of God grind slowly,
yet they grind exceeding small;
Though with patience he stands wait-
ing, with exactness grinds he
all.

TRUTH

When by night the frogs are croaking,
kindle but a torch's fire,
Ha! how soon they all are silent!
Thus Truth silences the liar.

RHYMES

If perhaps these rhymes of mine
should sound not well in stran-
gers' ears,
They have only to bethink them that
it happens so with theirs;
For so long as words, like mortals,
call a fatherland their own,
They will be most highly valued where
they are best and longest
known.

SILENT LOVE

Who love would seek,
Let him love evermore
And seldom speak;
For in love's domain
Silence must reign;
Or it brings the heart
Smart
And pain.

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD

BY SIMON DACH

OH, how blest are ye whose toils are
ended!
Who, through death, have unto God
ascended!
Ye have arisen
From the cares which keep us still in
prison.

We are still as in a dungeon living,
Still oppressed with sorrow and mis-
giving;
Our undertakings
Are but toils, and troubles, and heart-
breakings.

Ye, meanwhile, are in your chambers
sleeping,
Quiet, and set free from all our weep-
ing;
No cross nor trial
Hinders your enjoyments with denial.

Christ has wiped away your tears for
ever;
Ye have that for which we still en-
deavor.
To you are chanted
Songs which yet no mortal ear have
haunted.

Ah! who would not, then, depart
with gladness,
To inherit heaven for earthly sadness?
Who here would languish
Longer in bewailing and in anguish?
Come, O Christ, and loose the chains
that bind us!
Lead us forth, and cast this world be-
hind us!
With thee, the Anointed,
Finds the soul its joy and rest ap-
pointed.

WANDERER'S NIGHT-SONGS

BY JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

I

THOU that from the heavens art,
Every pain and sorrow stillest,
And the doubly wretched heart
Doubly with refreshment fillest,
I am weary with contending!
Why this rapture and unrest?
Peace descending
Come, ah, come into my breast!

II

O'er all the hill-tops
Is quiet now,
In all the tree-tops
Hearest thou
Hardly a breath;
The birds are asleep in the trees:
Wait; soon like these
Thou too shalt rest.

REMORSE

BY AUGUST VON PLATEN

How I started up in the night, in the
night,
Drawn on without rest or reprieve!
The streets, with their watchmen, were
lost to my sight,

As I wandered so light
In the night, in the night,
Through the gate with the arch me-
diæval.

The mill-brook rushed from the
rocky height,
I leaned o'er the bridge in my
yearning;
Deep under me watched I the waves
in their flight,
As they glided so light
In the night, in the night,
Yet backward not one was returning.

O'erhead were revolving, so countless
and bright,
The stars in melodious existence;
And with them the moon, more se-
renely bedight;
They sparkled so light
In the night, in the night,
Through the magical, measureless
distance.

And upward I gazed in the night, in
the night,
And again on the waves in their
fleeting;
Ah woe! thou hast wasted thy days
in delight,
Now silence thou light,
In the night, in the night,
The remorse in thy heart that is beat-
ing.

FORSAKEN

SOMETHING the heart must have to
cherish,
Must love and joy and sorrow learn,
Something with passion clasp, or
perish,
And in itself to ashes burn.

So to this child my heart is cling-
ing,
And its frank eyes, with look in-
tense,
Me from a world of sin are bringing
Back to a world of innocence.

Disdain must thou endure forever;
Strong may thy heart in danger be!
Thou shalt not fail! but ah, be never
False as thy father was to me.

Never will I forsake thee, faithless,
And thou thy mother ne'er for
sake,
Until her lips are white and breath-
less,
Until in death her eyes shall break.

ALLAH

BY SIEGFRIED AUGUST MAHLMANN

ALLAH gives light in darkness,
Allah gives rest in pain,
Cheeks that are white with weeping
Allah paints red again.

The flowers and the blossoms wither,
Years vanish with flying feet;
But my heart will live on forever,
That here in sadness beat.

Gladly to Allah's dwelling
Yonder would I take flight;
There will the darkness vanish,
There will my eyes have sight.

FROM THE ANGLO-SAXON

THE GRAVE

FOR thee was a house built
Ere thou wast born,
For thee was a mould meant
Ere thou of mother camest.
But it is not made ready,
Nor its depth measured,
Nor is it seen
How long it shall be.
Now I bring thee
Where thou shalt be;
Now I shall measure thee,
And the mould afterwards.

Thy house is not
Highly timbered,
It is unhigh and low;
When thou art therein,
The heel-ways are low,
The side-ways unhigh.
The roof is built
Thy breast full nigh,
So thou shalt in mould
Dwell full cold,
Dimly and dark.

Doorless is that house,
And dark it is within ;
There thou art fast detained
And Death hath the key.
Loathsome is that earth-house,
And grim within to dwell.
There thou shalt dwell, 30
And worms shall divide thee.

Thus thou art laid,
And leavest thy friends ;
Thou hast no friend,
Who will come to thee,
Who will ever see
How that house pleaseth thee ;
Who will ever open
The door for thee,
And descend after thee ; 40
For soon thou art loathsome
And hateful to see.

BEOWULF'S EXPEDITION TO
HEORT

THUS then, much care-worn,
The son of Healfden
Sorrowed evermore,
Nor might the prudent hero
His woes avert.
The war was too hard,
Too loath and longsome,
That on the people came,
Dire wrath and grim, 10
Of night-woes the worst.
This from home heard
Higelac's Thane,
Good among the Goths,
Grendel's deeds.
He was of mankind
In might the strongest,
At that day
Of this life,
Noble and stalwart.
He bade him a sea-ship, 20
A goodly one, prepare.
Quoth he, the war-king,
Over the swan's road,
Seek he would
The mighty monarch,
Since he wanted men.
For him that journey
His prudent fellows
Straight made ready,
Those that loved him. 30
They excited their souls,

The omen they beheld.
Had the good-man
Of the Gothic people
Champions chosen,
Of those that keenest
He might find,
Some fifteen men.
The sea-wood sought he.
The warrior showed, 40
Sea-crafty man !
The land-marks,
And first went forth.
The ship was on the waves,
Boat under the cliffs.
The barons ready
To the prow mounted.
The streams they whirled
The sea against the sands,
The chieftains bore 50
On the naked breast
Bright ornaments,
War-gear, Goth-like.
The men shoved off,
Men on their willing way,
The bounden wood.

Then went over the sea-waves,
Hurried by the wind,
The ship with foamy neck,
Most like a sea-fowl, 60
Till about one hour
Of the second day
The curved prow
Had passed onward
So that the sailors
The land saw,
The shore-cliffs shining,
Mountains steep,
And broad sea-noses.
Then was the sea-sailing 70
Of the Earl at an end.

Then up speedily
The Weather people
On the land went,
The sea-bark moored,
Their mail-sarks shook,
Their war-weeds.
God thanked they,
That to them the sea-journey
Easy had been. 80

Then from the wall beheld
The warden of the Scyldings,
He who the sea-cliffs
Had in his keeping,
Bear o'er the barks
The bright shields,
The war-weapons speedily.

Him the doubt disturbed
In his mind's thought,
What these men might be. 90

Went then to the shore,
On his steed riding,
The Thane of Hrothgar.
Before the host he shook
His warden's-staff in hand,
In measured words demanded :

"What men are ye
War-gear wearing,
Host in harness,
Who thus the brown keel 100
Over the water-street
Leading come
Hither over the sea?
I these boundaries
As shore-warden hold,
That in the Land of the Danes
Nothing loathsome
With a ship-crew
Scathe us might. . . .
Ne'er saw I mightier 110
Earl upon earth
Than is your own,
Hero in harness.

Not seldom this warrior
Is in weapons distinguished;
Never his beauty belies him,
His peerless countenance!
Now would I fain
Your origin know,
Ere ye forth 120
As false spies
Into the Land of the Danes
Farther fare.
Now, ye dwellers afar-off!
Ye sailors of the sea!
Listen to my
One-fold thought.
Quickest is best
To make known
Whence your coming may be." 130

THE SOUL'S COMPLAINT AGAINST THE BODY

FROM THE ANGLO-SAXON

MUCH it behoveth
Each one of mortals,
That he his soul's journey
In himself ponder,
How deep it may be.
When Death cometh,

The bonds he breaketh
By which were united
The soul and the body.

Long it is thenceforth 10
Ere the soul taketh
From God himself
Its woe or its weal;
As in the world erst,
Even in its earth-vessel,
It wrought before.

The soul shall come
Wailing with loud voice,
After a sennight,
The soul, to find 20
The body
That it erst dwelt in;—
Three hundred winters,
Unless ere that worketh
The Eternal Lord,
The Almighty God,
The end of the world.

Crieth then, so care-worn,
With cold utterance,
And speaketh grimly, 30
The ghost to the dust:
"Dry dust! thou dreary one!
How little didst thou labor for me!
In the foulness of earth
Thou all wearest away
Like to the loam!
Little didst thou think
How thy soul's journey
Would be thereafter,
When from the body 40
It should be led forth."

FROM THE FRENCH

SONG

FROM THE PARADISE OF LOVE

HARK! hark!
Pretty lark!
Little heedest thou my pain!
But if to these longing arms
Pitying Love would yield the charms
Of the fair
With smiling air,
Blithe would beat my heart again.

Hark! hark!
Pretty lark!

Little heedest thou my pain!
Love may force me still to bear,
While he lists, consuming care;
 But in anguish
 Though I languish,
Faithful shall my heart remain.

Hark! hark!
 Pretty lark!
Little heedest thou my pain!
Then cease, Love, to torment me so;
But rather than all thoughts forego
 Of the fair
 With flaxen hair,
Give me back her frowns again.

Hark! hark!
 Pretty lark!
Little heedest thou my pain!

SONG

AND whither goest thou, gentle sigh,
 Breathed so softly in my ear?
 Say, dost thou bear his fate se-
 vere
To Love's poor martyr doomed to
 die?
Come, tell me quickly, — do not lie;
 What secret message bring'st thou
 here?
And whither goest thou, gentle sigh,
 Breathed so softly in my ear?
May Heaven conduct thee to thy
 will,
 And safely speed thee on thy way;
 This only I would humbly pray, —
Pierce deep, — but oh! forbear to
 kill.
And whither goest thou, gentle sigh,
 Breathed so softly in my ear?

THE RETURN OF SPRING

BY CHARLES D'ORLEANS

Now Time throws off his cloak again
Of ermined frost, and wind, and rain,
And clothes him in the embroidery
Of glittering sun and clear blue sky.
With beast and bird the forest rings,
Each in his jargon cries or sings;
And Time throws off his cloak again
Of ermined frost, and wind, and rain.

River, and fount, and tinkling brook
Wear in their dainty livery
Drops of silver jewelry;
In new-made suit they merry look;
And Time throws off his cloak again
Of ermined frost, and wind, and rain

SPRING

BY CHARLES D'ORLEANS

GENTLE Spring! in sunshine clad,
Well dost thou thy power display!
For Winter maketh the light heart
 sad,
And thou, thou makest the sad
 heart gay.
He sees thee, and calls to his gloomy
 train,
The sleet, and the snow, and the wind,
 and the rain;
And they shrink away, and they flee
 in fear,
When thy merry step draws near.

Winter giveth the fields and the trees,
 so old,
Their beards of icicles and snow;
And the rain, it raineth so fast and
 cold,
We must cower over the embers
 low;
And, snugly housed from the wind
 and weather,
Mope like birds that are changing
 feather.
But the storm retires, and the sky
 grows clear,
When thy merry step draws near.

Winter maketh the sun in the gloomy
 sky
Wrap him round with a mantle of
 cloud;
But, Heaven be praised, thy step is
 nigh;
Thou tearest away the mournful
 shroud,
And the earth looks bright, and Winter
 surly,
Who has toiled for naught both late
 and early,
Is banished afar by the new-born
 year,
When thy merry step draws near.

THE CHILD ASLEEP

BY CLOTILDE DE SURVILLE

SWEET babe! true portrait of thy
father's face,
Sleep on the bosom that thy lips
have pressed!
Sleep, little one; and closely, gently
place
Thy drowsy eyelid on thy mother's
breast.

Upon that tender eye, my little friend,
Soft sleep shall come, that cometh
not to me!
I watch to see thee, nourish thee, de-
fend;
'T is sweet to watch for thee, alone
for thee!

His arms fall down; sleep sits upon
his brow;
His eye is closed; he sleeps, nor
dreams of harm.
Wore not his cheek the apple's ruddy
glow,
Would you not say he slept on
Death's cold arm?

Awake, my boy! I tremble with af-
fright!
Awake, and chase this fatal thought!
Unclose
Thine eye but for one moment on the
light!
Even at the price of thine, give me
repose!

Sweet error! he but slept, I breathe
again;
Come, gentle dreams, the hour of
sleep beguile!
Oh, when shall he, for whom I sigh in
vain,
Beside me watch to see thy waking
smile?

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP
TURPIN

FROM THE CHANSON DE ROLAND

THE Archbishop, whom God loved in
high degree,
Beheld his wounds all bleeding fresh
and free;

And then his cheek more ghastly grew
and wan,
And a faint shudder through his mem-
bers ran.
Upon the battle-field his knee was
bent;
Brave Roland saw, and to his succor
went,
Straightway his helmet from his brow
unlaced,
And tore the shining hauberk from his
breast.
Then raising in his arms the man of
God,
Gently he laid him on the verdant
sod.
"Rest, Sire," he cried, — "for rest
thy suffering needs."
The priest replied, "Think but of
warlike deeds!
The field is ours; well may we boast
this strife!
But death steals on, — there is no hope
of life;
In paradise, where Almoners live
again,
There are our couches spread, there
shall we rest from pain."

Sore Roland grieved; nor marvel I, alas!
That thrice he swooned upon the thick
green grass.
When he revived, with a loud voice
cried he,
"O Heavenly Father! Holy Saint
Marie!
Why lingers death to lay me in my
grave!
Belovèd France! how have the good
and brave
Been torn from thee, and left thee
weak and poor!"
Then thoughts of Aude, his lady-love,
came o'er
His spirit, and he whispered soft and
slow,
"My gentle friend! — what parting
full of woe!
Never so true a liegeman shalt thou
see; —
Whate'er my fate, Christ's benison on
thee!
Christ, who did save from realms of
woe beneath,
The Hebrew Prophets from the second
death."

Then to the Paladins, whom well he
 knew,
 He went, and one by one unaided
 drew
 To Turpin's side, well skilled in
 ghostly lore ; —
 No heart had he to smile, but, weep-
 ing sore,
 He blessed them in God's name, with
 faith that he
 Would soon vouchsafe to them a glad
 eternity.
 The Archbishop, then, on whom God's
 benison rest,
 Exhausted, bowed his head upon his
 breast : —
 His mouth was full of dust and
 clotted gore,
 And many a wound his swollen visage
 bore.
 Slow beats his heart, his panting
 bosom heaves,
 Death comes apace, — no hope of cure
 relieves.
 Towards heaven he raised his dying
 hands and prayed
 That God, who for our sins was mortal
 made,
 Born of the Virgin, scorned and cruci-
 fled,
 In paradise would place him by his
 side.

Then Turpin died in service of Char-
 lon,
 In battle great and eke great orison ; —
 'Gainst Pagan host alway strong cham-
 pion ;
 God grant to him his holy benison. 30

THE BLIND GIRL OF CASTÈL CUILLE

BY JACQUES JASMIN

Only the Lowland tongue of Scotland might
 Rehearse this little tragedy aright ;
 Let me attempt it with an English quill ;
 And take, O Reader, for the deed the will.

I

At the foot of the mountain height
 Where is perched Castèl Cuillè,
 When the apple, the plum, and the al-
 mond tree
 In the plain below were growing
 white,

This is the song one might per-
 ceive
 On a Wednesday morn of St. Joseph's
 Eve :

*The roads should blossom, the roads
 should bloom,
 So fair a bride shall leave her home !
 Should blossom and bloom with garlands
 gay,
 So fair a bride shall pass to-day !* 10

Castèl Cuillè

This old Te Deum, rustic rites attend-
 ing,
 Seemed from the clouds descend-
 ing ;
 When lo ! a merry company
 Of rosy village girls, clean as the eye,
 Each one with her attendant
 swain,
 Came to the cliff, all singing the
 same strain ;
 Resembling there, so near unto the sky,
 Rejoicing angels, that kind heaven
 had sent
 For their delight and our encourage-
 ment.

Together blending, 20
 And soon descending
 The narrow sweep
 Of the hillside steep,
 They wind aslant
 Towards Saint Amant,
 Through leafy alleys
 Of verdurous valleys
 With merry sallies,
 Singing their chant:

*The roads should blossom, the roads
 should bloom, 30
 So fair a bride shall leave her home!
 Should blossom and bloom with garlands
 gay,
 So fair a bride shall pass to-day!*

It is Baptiste, and his affianced maiden,
 With garlands for the bridal laden!

The sky was blue; without one cloud
 of gloom,
 The sun of March was shining
 brightly,
 And to the air the freshening wind
 gave lightly
 Its breathings of perfume.

When one beholds the dusky hedges
 blossom, 40
 A rustic bridal, ah! how sweet it is!
 To sounds of joyous melodies,
 That touch with tenderness the trem-
 bling bosom,
 A band of maidens
 Gayly frolicking,
 A band of youngsters
 Wildly rollicking!
 Kissing,
 Caressing,
 With fingers pressing, 50
 Till in the veriest
 Madness of mirth, as they dance,
 They retreat and advance,
 Trying whose laugh shall be
 loudest and merriest;
 While the bride, with roguish eyes,
 Sporting with them, now escapes and
 cries:
 "Those who catch me
 Married verily
 This year shall be!" 59

And all pursue with eager haste,
 And all attain what they pursue,

And touch her pretty apron fresh
 and new,
 And the linen kirtle round her
 waist.

Meanwhile, whence comes it that
 among
 These youthful maidens fresh and
 fair,
 So joyous, with such laughing
 air,
 Baptiste stands sighing, with si-
 lent tongue?

And yet the bride is fair and
 young!

Is it Saint Joseph would say to us
 all,

That love, o'er-hasty, precedeth a
 fall? 70

Oh no! for a maiden frail, I trow,
 Never bore so lofty a brow!

What lovers! they give not a single
 caress!

To see them so careless and cold to-
 day,

These are grand people, one would
 say.

What ails Baptiste? what grief doth
 him oppress?

It is, that, half-way up the hill,
 In yon cottage, by whose walls
 Stand the cart-house and the stalls,
 Dwelleth the blind orphan still, &
 Daughter of a veteran old;
 And you must know, one year
 ago,

That Margaret, the young and
 tender,

Was the village pride and splen-
 dor,

And Baptiste her lover bold.

Love, the deceiver, them ensnared;
 For them the altar was prepared;

But alas! the summer's blight,
 The dread disease that none can
 stay,

The pestilence that walks by
 night, 90

Took the young bride's sight
 away.

All at the father's stern command was
 changed;

Their peace was gone, but not their
 love estranged.

Wearied at home ere long the lover
fled ;

Returned but three short days ago,
The golden chain they round him
throw,
He is enticed, and onward led
To marry Angela, and yet
Is thinking ever of Margaret.

Then suddenly a maiden cried, ¹⁰⁰
"Anna, Theresa, Mary, Kate!
Here comes the cripple Jane!" And
by a fountain's side
A woman, bent and gray with
years,
Under the mulberry trees ap-
pears,
And all towards her run, as fleet
As had they wings upon their
feet.

It is that Jane, the cripple Jane,
Is a soothsayer, wary and kind.
She telleth fortunes, and none com-
plain. ¹⁰⁹
She promises one a village swain,
Another a happy wedding-day,
And the bride a lovely boy
straightway.
All comes to pass as she avers ;
She never deceives, she never errs.

But for this once the village seer
Wears a countenance severe,
And from beneath her eyebrows thin
and white
Her two eyes flash like cannons
bright
Aimed at the bridegroom in
waistcoat blue, ¹¹⁹
Who, like a statue, stands in
view ;
Changing color, as well he might,
When the beldame wrinkled and
gray
Takes the young bride by the
hand,
And, with the tip of her reedy
wand
Making the sign of the cross,
doth say : —
"Thoughtless Angela, beware!
Lest, when thou weddest this
false bridegroom,
Thou diggest for thyself a tomb!"
And she was silent ; and the maidens

Full

Saw from each eye escape a swollen
tear ; ¹³⁰

But on a little streamlet silver-clear,
What are two drops of turbid
rain ?
Saddened a moment, the bridal
train
Resumed the dance and song
again ;
The bridegroom only was pale with
fear, —
And down green alleys
Of verdurous valleys,
With merry sallies,
They sang the refrain : —

. . . "the village seer"

*The roads should blossom, the roads
should bloom, ¹⁴⁰
So fair a bride shall leave her home !
Should blossom and bloom with garlands
gay,
So fair a bride shall pass to-day !*

II

And by suffering worn and weary,
But beautiful as some fair angel yet,
Thus lamented Margaret,
In her cottage lone and dreary : —

"Who knows? perhaps I am forsaken!"

"He has arrived! arrived at last!
Yet Jane has named him not these
three days past;

Arrived! yet keeps aloof so far! 150
And knows that of my night he is the
star!

Knows that long months I wait alone,
benighted,

And count the moments since he went
away!

Come! keep the promise of that hap-
pier day,

That I may keep the faith to thee I
plighted!

What joy have I without thee? what
delight?

Grief wastes my life, and makes it
misery;

Day for the others ever, but for me

Forever night! forever night!

When he is gone 't is dark! my soul
is sad! 160

I suffer! O my God! come, make me
glad.

When he is near, no thoughts of day
intrude;

Day has blue heavens, but Baptiste
has blue eyes!

Within them shines for me a heaven
of love,

A heaven all happiness, like that
above,

No more of grief! no more of las-
situde!

Earth I forget, — and heaven, and all
distresses,

When seated by my side my hand he
presses;

But when alone, remember all!

Where is Baptiste? he hears not when
I call! 170

A branch of ivy, dying on the ground,
I need some bough to twine
around!

In pity come! be to my suffering
kind!

True love, they say, in grief doth
more abound!

What then — when one is blind?

"Who knows? perhaps I am for-
saken!

Ah! woe is me! then bear me to my
grave!

O God! what thoughts within me
waken!

Away! he will return! I do but rave!
He will return! I need not fear!

He swore it by our Saviour
dear; 181

He could not come at his own will ;

Is weary, or perhaps is ill !
Perhaps his heart, in this disguise,
Prepares for me some sweet surprise !

But some one comes ! Though blind,
my heart can see !

And that deceives me not ! 't is he !
't is he ! "

And the door ajar is set,
And poor, confiding Margaret
Rises, with outstretched arms, but
sightless eyes ;

'T is only Paul, her brother, who thus
cries : —

" Angela the bride has passed !
I saw the wedding guests go by ;
Tell me, my sister, why were we
not asked ?

For all are there but you and I ! "

" Angela married ! and not sent
To tell her secret unto me !
Oh, speak ! who may the bride-
groom be ? "

" My sister, 't is Baptiste, thy
friend ! "

A cry the blind girl gave, but nothing
said ;

A milky whiteness spreads upon her
cheeks ;

An icy hand, as heavy as lead,
Descending, as her brother speaks,
Upon her heart, that has ceased to
beat,

Suspends awhile its life and heat.
She stands beside the boy, now sore
distressed,

A wax Madonna as a peasant dressed.
At length, the bridal song again
Brings her back to her sorrow and
pain.

" Hark ! the joyous airs are ring-
ing !

Sister, dost thou hear them sing-
ing ?

How merrily they laugh and jest !
Would we were bidden with the
rest !

I would don my hose of homespun
gray,

And my doublet of linen striped
and gay ;

Perhaps they will come ; for they
do not wed

Till to-morrow at seven o'clock, it
it is said ! "

" I know it ! " answered Marga-
ret ;

Whom the vision, with aspect black
as jet,

Mastered again ; and its hand of
ice

Held her heart crushed, as in a vice !

" Paul, be not sad ! 't is a holi-
day ;

To-morrow put on thy doublet
gay !

But leave me now for awhile
alone. "

Away, with a hop and a jump,
went Paul,

And, as he whistled along the hall,
Entered Jane, the crippled crone

" Holy Virgin ! what dreadful
heat !

I am faint, and weary, and out of
breath !

But thou art cold. — art chill as
death ;

My little friend ! what ails thee,
sweet ? "

" Nothing ! I heard them singing home
the bride ;

And, as I listened to the song,
I thought my turn would come
erelong,

Thou knowest it is at Whitsun-
tide.

Thy cards forsooth can never lie,
To me such joy they prophesy,

Thy skill shall be vaunted far and
wide

When they behold him at my
side.

And poor Baptiste, what sayest
thou ?

It must seem long to him ; — methinks
I see him now ! "

Jane, shuddering, her hand doth
press :

" Thy love I cannot all approve ;
We must not trust too much to happi-
ness ; —

Go, pray to God, that thou mayest
love him less ! "

" The more I pray, the more I
love !

It is no sin, for God is on my side!"
It was enough; and Jane no more re-
plied.

Now to all hope her heart is barred
and cold; ²⁴⁹
But to deceive the beldame old
She takes a sweet, contented air;
Speak of foul weather or of fair,
At every word the maiden smiles!
Thus the beguiler she beguiles;
So that, departing at the evening's
close,
She says, "She may be saved! she
nothing knows!

Poor Jane, the cunning sorceress!
Now that thou wouldst, thou art no
prophetess!
This morning, in the fulness of thy
heart,
Thou wast so, far beyond thine
art! ²⁶⁰

III

Now rings the bell, nine times rever-
berating,
And the white daybreak, stealing up
the sky,
Sees in two cottages two maidens
waiting,
How differently!

Queen of a day, by flatterers caressed,
The one puts on her cross and
crown,
Decks with a huge bouquet her
breast,
And flaunting, fluttering up and
down,
Looks at herself, and cannot rest.
The other, blind, within her little
room, ²⁷⁰
Has neither crown nor flower's
perfume;
But in their stead for something gropes
apart,
That in a drawer's recess doth lie,
And, 'neath her bodice of bright scar-
let dye,
Convulsive clasps it to her heart.

The one, fantastic, light as air,
'Mid kisses ringing,
And joyous singing,
Forgets to say her morning prayer!

The other, with cold drops upon her
brow, ²⁸⁰
Joins her two hands, and kneels
upon the floor,
And whispers, as her brother opes the
door,
"O God! forgive me now!"

And then the orphan, young and
blind,
Conducted by her brother's hand,
Towards the church, through
paths unscanned,
With tranquil air, her way doth
wind.
Odors of laurel, making her faint and
pale,
Round her at times exhale, ²⁸⁹
And in the sky as yet no sunny ray,
But brumal vapors gray.

Near that castle, fair to see,
Crowded with sculptures old, in every
part,
Marvels of nature and of art,
And proud of its name of high
degree,
A little chapel, almost bare
At the base of the rock, is builded
there;
All glorious that it lifts aloof,
Above each jealous cottage roof,
Its sacred summit, swept by autumn
gales, ³⁰⁰
And its blackened steeple high in
air,
Round which the osprey screams
and sails.

"Paul, lay thy noisy rattle by!"
Thus Margaret said. "Where are we?
we ascend!"
"Yes; seest thou not our journey's
end?
Hearest not the osprey from the belfry
cry?
The hideous bird, that brings ill luck,
we know!
Dost thou remember when our father
said,
The night we watched beside his bed,
'O daughter, I am weak and low; ³¹⁰
Take care of Paul; I feel that I am
dying!'
And thou, and he, and I, all fell to
crying?"

Then on the roof the osprey screamed
aloud;

And here they brought our father in
his shroud.

There is his grave; there stands the
cross we set;

Why dost thou clasp me so, dear Mar-
garet?

Come in! the bride will be here
soon:

Thou tremblest! O my God! thou art
going to swoon!"

She could no more, — the blind girl,
weak and weary!

A voice seemed crying from that grave
so dreary, ³²⁰

"What wouldst thou do, my daugh-
ter?" — and she started,

And quick recoiled, aghast, faint-
hearted;

But Paul, impatient, urges evermore
Her steps towards the open door;

And when, beneath her feet, the un-
happy maid

Crushes the laurel near the house im-
mortal,

And with her head, as Paul talks on
again,

Touches the crown of filigrane
Suspended from the low-arched
portal,

No more restrained, no more
afraid, ³³⁰

She walks, as for a feast ar-
rayed,

And in the ancient chapel's sombre
night

They both are lost to sight.

At length the bell,

With booming sound,

Sends forth, resounding round,

Its hymeneal peal o'er rock and down
the dell.

It is broad day, with sunshine and
with rain;

And yet the guests delay not long,

For soon arrives the bridal train,

And with it brings the village
throng. ³⁴¹

In sooth, deceit maketh no mortal
gay,

For lo! Baptiste on this triumphant
day,

Mute as an idiot, sad as yester-morn-
ing,

Thinks only of the beldame's words
of warning.

And Angela thinks of her cross, I
wis;

To be a bride is all! the pretty lisper
Feels her heart swell to hear all round

her whisper,

"How beautiful! how beautiful she
is!"

But she must calm that giddy
head, ³⁵⁰

For already the Mass is said;

At the holy table stands the
priest;

The wedding ring is blessed; Baptiste
receives it;

Ere on the finger of the bride he
leaves it,

He must pronounce one word at
least!

'T is spoken; and sudden at the
groomsman's side

"'T is he!" a well-known voice has
cried.

And while the wedding guests all hold
their breath,

Opes the confessional, and the blind
girl, see!

"Baptiste," she said, "since thou hast
wished my death, ³⁶⁰

As holy water be my blood for thee!"

And calmly in the air a knife sus-
pended!

Doubtless her guardian angel near at-
tended,

For anguish did its work so
well,

That, ere the fatal stroke de-
scended,

Lifeless she fell!

At eve, instead of bridal verse,
The De Profundis filled the air:

Decked with flowers a simple
hearse

To the churchyard forth they
bear; ³⁷⁰

Village girls in robes of snow
Follow, weeping as they go;

Nowhere was a smile that day,

No, ah no! for each one seemed to
say:—

*The road should mourn and be veiled in
gloom,
So fair a corpse shall leave its home!
Should mourn and should weep, ah,
well-away!
So fair a corpse shall pass to-day!*

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

FROM THE NOËL BOURGUIGNON DE GUI
BARÔZAI

I HEAR along our street
Pass the minstrel throngs;
Hark! they play so sweet,
On their hautboys, Christmas songs!
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

In December ring
Every day the chimes;
Loud the gleemen sing

10

In the streets their merry rhymes.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire.

Shepherds at the grange,
Where the Babe was born,
Sang, with many a change,
Christmas carols until morn.

Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

21

These good people sang
Songs devout and sweet;
While the rafters rang,
There they stood with freezing feet.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire.

Nuns in frigid cells
At this holy tide,

34

For want of something else,
Christmas songs at times have tried.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

Washerwomen old,
To the sound they beat,
Sing by rivers cold,
With uncovered heads and feet.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire.

Who by the fireside stands
Stamps his feet and sings;
But he who blows his hands
Not so gay a carol brings.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

CONSOLATION

TO M. DUPERRIER, GENTLEMAN OF AIX
IN PROvence, ON THE DEATH OF HIS
DAUGHTER

BY FRANÇOIS DE MALHERBE

WILL then, Duperrier, thy sorrow be
eternal?
And shall the sad discourse
Whispered within thy heart, by ten-
derness paternal,
Only augment its force?

Thy daughter's mournful fate, into the
tomb descending
By death's frequented ways,
Has it become to thee a labyrinth
never ending,
Where thy lost reason strays?

I know the charms that made her
youth a benediction:
Nor should I be content,
As a censorious friend, to solace thine
affliction
By her disparagement.

But she was of the world, which fair-
est things exposes
To fates the most forlorn;

A rose, she too hath lived as long as
live the roses,
The space of one brief morn.

Death has his rigorous laws, unparal-
leled, unfeeling;
All prayers to him are vain;
Cruel, he stops his ears, and, deaf to
our appealing,
He leaves us to complain.

The poor man in his hut, with only
thatch for cover,
Unto these laws must bend;
The sentinel that guards the barriers
of the Louvre
Cannot our kings defend.

To murmur against death, in petulant
defiance,
Is never for the best;
To will what God doth will, that is
the only science
That gives us any rest.

TO CARDINAL RICHELIEU

BY FRANÇOIS DE MALHERBE

THOU mighty Prince of Church and
State,
Richelieu! until the hour of death,
Whatever road man chooses, Fate
Still holds him subject to her breath.
Spun of all silks, our days and
nights

Have sorrows woven with delights;
And of this intermingled shade
Our various destiny appears,
Even as one sees the course of years
Of summers and of winters made.

Sometimes the soft, deceitful hours
Let us enjoy the halcyon wave:
Sometimes impending peril lowers
Beyond the seaman's skill to save.
The Wisdom, infinitely wise,
That gives to human destinies
Their foreordained necessity,
Has made no law more fixed be-
low,
Than the alternate ebb and flow
Of Fortune and Adversity.

THE ANGEL AND THE CHILD

BY JEAN REBOUL, THE BAKER OF
NISMES

AN angel with a radiant face,
Above a cradle bent to look,
Seemed his own image there to trace,
As in the waters of a brook.

"Dear child! who me resemblest so,"
It whispered, "come, oh come with
me!

Happy together let us go,
The earth unworthy is of thee!

"Here none to perfect bliss attain;
The soul in pleasure suffering lies;
Joy hath an undertone of pain,
And even the happiest hours their
sighs.

"Fear doth at every portal knock;
Never a day serene and pure
From the o'ershadowing tempest's
shock
Hath made the morrow's dawn se-
cure.

"What, then, shall sorrows and shall
fears
Come to disturb so pure a brow?
And with the bitterness of tears
These eyes of azure troubled grow?

"Ah no! into the fields of space,
Away shalt thou escape with me;
And Providence will grant thee grace
Of all the days that were to be.

"Let no one in thy dwelling cower,
In sombre vestments draped and
veiled;
But let them welcome thy last hour,
As thy first moments once they
hailed.

"Without a cloud be there each brow;
There let the grave no shadow
cast;
When one is pure as thou art now,
The fairest day is still the last."

And waving wide his wings of white,
The angel, at these words, had sped
Towards the eternal realms of light! —
Poor mother! see, thy son is dead!

ON THE TERRACE OF THE
AIGALADES

BY JOSEPH MÉRY

FROM this high portal, where up
springs
The rose to touch our hands in play,
We at a glance behold three things,—
The Sea, the Town, and the High-
way.

And the Sea says: My shipwrecks
fear;
I drown my best friends in the deep;
And those who braved my tempests,
here
Among my sea-weeds lie asleep!

The Town says: I am filled and
fraught
With tumult and with smoke and
care;
My days with toil are overwrought,
And in my nights I gasp for air.

The Highway says: My wheel-tracks
guide
To the pale climates of the North;
Where my last milestone stands abide
The people to their death gone forth.

Here in the shade this life of ours,
Full of delicious air, glides by
Amid a multitude of flowers
As countless as the stars on high; 20

These red-tiled roofs, this fruitful soil,
Bathed with an azure all divine,
Where springs the tree that gives us oil,
The grape that giveth us the wine;

Beneath these mountains stripped of
trees,
Whose tops with flowers are covered
o'er,
Where springtime of the Hesperides
Begins, but endeth nevermore;

Under these leafy vaults and walls,
That unto gentle sleep persuade; 30
This rainbow of the waterfalls,
Of mingled mist and sunshine made;

Upon these shores, where all invites,
We live our languid life apart:

"The Sea, the Town, and the Highway"

This air is that of life's delights,
The festival of sense and heart ;

This limpid space of time prolong,
Forget to-morrow in to-day,
And leave unto the passing throng
The Sea, the Town, and the High-
way. 40

TO MY BROOKLET

BY JEAN FRANÇOIS DUCIS

THOU brooklet, all unknown to song,
Hid in the covert of the wood!

Ah, yes, like thee I fear the throng,
Like thee I love the solitude.

O brooklet, let my sorrows past
Lie all forgotten in their graves,
Till in my thoughts remain at last
Only thy peace, thy flowers, thy
waves.

The lily by thy margin waits ; —
The nightingale, the marguerite :
In shadow here he meditates
His nest, his love, his music sweet.

Near thee the self-collected soul
 Knows naught of error or of crime;
 Thy waters, murmuring as they roll,
 Transform his musings into rhyme.

Ah, when, on bright autumnal eves,
 Pursuing still thy course, shall I
 List the soft shudder of the leaves,
 And hear the lapwing's plaintive
 cry?

BARRÉGES

BY LEFRANC DE POMPIGNAN

I LEAVE you, ye cold mountain chains,
 Dwelling of warriors stark and frore!
 You, may these eyes behold no
 more.
 Save on the horizon of our plains.

Vanish, ye frightful, gloomy views!
 Ye rocks that mount up to the
 clouds!

Of skies, enwrapped in misty
 shrouds,

Impracticable avenues!

Ye torrents, that with might and main
 Break pathways through the rocky
 walls,

With your terrific waterfalls
 Fatigue no more my weary brain!

Arise, ye landscapes full of charms,
 Arise, ye pictures of delight!

Ye brooks, that water in your flight
 The flowers and harvests of our farms!

You I perceive, ye meadows green,
 Where the Garonne the lowland
 fills,

Not far from that long chain of hills,
With intermingled vales between.

Yon wreath of smoke, that mounts so
high,
Methinks from my own hearth must
come ;
With speed, to that belovèd home,
Fly, ye too lazy coursers, fly !

And bear me thither, where the soul
In quiet may itself possess,
Where all things soothe the mind's
distress,
Where all things teach me and console.

WILL EVER THE DEAR DAYS COME BACK AGAIN ?

WILL ever the dear days come back
again,
Those days of June, when lilacs
were in bloom,
And bluebirds sang their sonnets in
the gloom
Of leaves that roofed them in from
sun or rain ?
I know not ; but a presence will remain
Forever and forever in this room,
Formless, diffused in air ; like a per-
fume, —
A phantom of the heart, and not the
brain.
Delicious days ! when every spoken
word
Was like a footfall nearer and more
near,
And a mysterious knocking at the
gate
Of the heart's secret places, and we
heard
In the sweet tumult of delight and
fear
A voice that whispered, " Open, I
cannot wait ! "

AT LA CHAUDEAU

BY XAVIER MARMIER

AT La Chaudeau, — 't is long since
then :
I was young, — my years twice ten ;
All things smiled on the happy boy,
Dreams of love and songs of joy,

Azure of heaven and wave below,
At La Chaudeau.

To La Chaudeau I come back old :
My head is gray, my blood is cold ;
Seeking along the meadow ooze,
Seeking beside the river Seymousse,
The days of my spring-time of long
ago

At La Chaudeau.

At La Chaudeau nor heart nor brain
Ever grows old with grief and pain ;
A sweet remembrance keeps off age ;
A tender friendship doth still assuage
The burden of sorrow that one may
know

At La Chaudeau.

At La Chaudeau, had fate decreed
To limit the wandering life I lead,
Peradventure I still, forsooth,
Should have preserved my fresh green
youth

Under the shadows the hill-tops throw
At La Chaudeau.

At La Chaudeau, live on, my friends,
Happy to be where God intends ;
And sometimes, by the evening fire,
Think of him whose sole desire
Is again to sit in the old château

At La Chaudeau.

A QUIET LIFE

LET him who will, by force or fraud
innate,
Of courtly grandeurs gain the slip-
pery height ;
I, leaving not the home of my de-
light,
Far from the world and noise will
meditate.
Then, without pomps or perils of the
great,
I shall behold the day succeed the
night ;
Behold the alternate seasons take
their flight,
And in serene repose old age await.
And so, whenever Death shall come to
close
The happy moments that my days
compose,

I, full of years, shall die, obscure,
 alone!
 How wretched is the man, with honors
 crowned,
 Who, having not the one thing
 needful found,
 Dies, known to all, but to himself
 unknown.

Souvenirs of the days of old
 Already from the bottle flow.
 With glass in hand our glances met;
 We pledge, we drink. How sour
 it is!
 Never Argenteuil piquette
 Was to my palate sour as this!

"Little sweet wine of Jurançon"

THE WINE OF JURANÇON

BY CHARLES CORAN

LITTLE sweet wine of Jurançon,
 You are dear to my memory still!
 With mine host and his merry song,
 Under the rose-tree I drank my fill.

Twenty years after, passing that way,
 Under the trellis I found again
 Mine host, still sitting there *au frais*,
 And singing still the same refrain.

The Jurançon, so fresh and bold,
 Treats me as one it used to know;

And yet the vintage was good, in
 sooth;
 The self-same juice, the self-same
 cask!
 It was you, O gayety of my youth,
 That failed in the autumnal flask!

FRIAR LUBIN

BY CLEMENT MAROT

To gallop off to town post-haste,
 So oft, the times I cannot tell;
 To do vile deed, nor feel disgraced, —
 Friar Lubin will do it well.

But a sober life to lead,
 To honor virtue, and pursue it,
 That 's a pious, Christian deed, —
 Friar Lubin cannot do it.

To mingle, with a knowing smile,
 The goods of others with his own,
 And leave you without cross or pile
 Friar Lubin stands alone.
 To say 't is yours is all in vain,
 If once he lays his finger to it;
 For as to giving back again,
 Friar Lubin cannot do it.

With flattering words and gentle
 tone,
 To woo and win some guileless
 maid,
 Cunning pander need you none, —
 Friar Lubin knows the trade.
 Loud preacheth he sobriety,
 But as for water, doth eschew it;
 Your dog may drink it, — but not
 he;
 Friar Lubin cannot do it.

ENVOY

When an evil deed 's to do
 Friar Lubin is stout and true;
 Glimmers a ray of goodness through
 it,
 Friar Lubin cannot do it.

RONDEL

BY JEAN FROISSART

LOVE, love, what wilt thou with this
 heart of mine?
 Naught see I fixed or sure in thee!
 I do not know thee, — nor what deeds
 are thine;
 Love, love, what wilt thou with this
 heart of mine?
 Naught see I fixed or sure in thee!
 Shall I be mute, or vows with prayers
 combine?
 Ye who are blessed in loving, tell it
 me:
 Love, love, what wilt thou with this
 heart of mine?
 Naught see I permanent or sure in
 thee!

MY SECRET

BY FÉLIX ARVERS

My soul its secret has, my life too has
 its mystery,
 A love eternal in a moment's space
 conceived:
 Hopeless the evil is, I have not told
 its history,
 And she who was the cause nor knew
 it nor believed.
 Alas! I shall have passed close by her
 unperceived,
 Forever at her side, and yet forever
 lonely,
 I shall unto the end have made life's
 journey, only
 Daring to ask for naught, and having
 naught, received.
 For her, though God has made her
 gentle and endearing,
 She will go on her way distraught and
 without hearing
 These murmurings of love that round
 her steps ascend,
 Piously faithful still unto her austere
 duty,
 Will say, when she shall read these
 lines full of her beauty,
 "Who can this woman be?" and will
 not comprehend.

FROM THE ITALIAN

THE CELESTIAL PILOT

PURGATORIO II. 13-51.

AND now, behold! as at the approach
 of morning,
 Through the gross vapors, Mars
 grows fiery red
 Down in the west upon the ocean
 floor,
 Appeared to me, — may I again be-
 hold it!
 A light along the sea, so swiftly
 coming,
 Its motion by no flight of wing is
 equalled.
 And when therefrom I had withdrawn
 a little
 Mine eyes, that I might question my
 conductor,

Again I saw it brighter grown and
 larger.
 Thereafter, on all sides of it, appeared
 I knew not what of white, and un-
 derneath,
 Little by little, there came forth an-
 other.
 My master yet had uttered not a word,
 While the first whiteness into wings
 unfolded,
 But, when he clearly recognized the
 pilot,
 He cried aloud: "Quick, quick, and
 bow the knee!
 Behold the Angel of God! fold up
 thy hands!
 Henceforward shalt thou see such
 officers!
 See, how he scorns all human argu-
 ments,
 So that no oar he wants, nor other sail
 Than his own wings, between so
 distant shores!
 See, how he holds them, pointed
 straight to heaven,
 Fanning the air with the eternal
 pinions,
 That do not moult themselves like
 mortal hair!"
 And then, as nearer and more near us
 came
 The Bird of Heaven, more glorious
 he appeared,
 So that the eye could not sustain his
 presence,
 But down I cast it; and he came to
 shore
 With a small vessel, gliding swift
 and light,
 So that the water swallowed naught
 thereof.
 Upon the stern stood the Celestial
 Pilot!
 Beatitude seemed written in his face!
 And more than a hundred spirits sat
 within.
 "*In exitu Israel de Ægypto!*"
 Thus sang they all together in one
 voice,
 With whatso in that Psalm is after
 written.
 Then made he sign of holy rood upon
 them,
 Whereat all cast themselves upon
 the shore,
 And he departed swiftly as he came.

THE TERRESTRIAL PARADISE

PURGATORIO XXVIII. 1-33.

LONGING already to search in and
 round
 The heavenly forest, dense and liv-
 ing-green,
 Which tempered to the eyes the
 new-born day.
 Withouten more delay I left the bank,
 Crossing the level country slowly,
 slowly,
 Over the soil, that everywhere
 breathed fragrance.
 A gently-breathing air, that no muta-
 tion
 Had in itself, smote me upon the
 forehead
 No heavier blow than of a pleasant
 breeze,
 Whereat the tremulous branches read-
 ily
 Did all of them bow downward to-
 wards that side
 Where its first shadow casts the Holy
 Mountain;
 Yet not from their upright direction
 bent
 So that the little birds upon their
 tops
 Should cease the practice of their
 tuneful art;
 But, with full-throated joy, the hours
 of prime
 Singing received they in the midst
 of foliage
 That made monotonous burden to
 their rhymes,
 Even as from branch to branch it
 gathering swells,
 Through the pine forests on the
 shore of Chiassi,
 When Æolus unlooses the Sirocco.
 Already my slow steps had led me on
 Into the ancient wood so far, that I
 Could see no more the place where
 I had entered.
 And lo! my further course cut off a
 river,
 Which, tow'rs the left hand, with
 its little waves,
 Bent down the grass, that on its
 margin sprang.
 All waters that on earth most limpid
 are,

"Into the ancient wood" . . .

Would seem to have within them-
selves some mixture,
Compared with that, which nothing
doth conceal,
Although it moves on with a brown,
brown current,
Under the shade perpetual, that
never
Ray of the sun lets in, nor of the
moon.

BEATRICE

PURGATORIO XXX. 18-33, 85-88, XXXL
13-21.

EVEN as the Blessed, at the final
summons,
Shall rise up quickened, each one
from his grave,
Wearing again the garments of the
flesh.

So, upon that celestial chariot,
A hundred rose *ad vocem tanti senis*,
Ministers and messengers of life
eternal.
They all were saying, "*Benedictus qui
venis*,"
And scattering flowers above and
round about,
"*Manibus o date lilia plenis*."
Oft have I seen, at the approach of
day,
The orient sky all stained with
roseate hues,
And the other heaven with light
serene adorned,
And the sun's face uprising, over-
shadowed,
So that, by temperate influence of
vapors,
The eye sustained his aspect for
long while;
Thus in the bosom of a cloud of
flowers,

Which from those hands angelic
 were thrown up,
 And down descended inside and
 without,
 With crown of olive o'er a snow-white
 veil,
 Appeared a lady, under a green
 mantle,
 Vested in colors of the living flame.
 Even as the snow, among the living
 rafters
 Upon the back of Italy, congeals,
 Blown on and beaten by Slavonian
 winds,
 And then, dissolving, filters through
 itself,
 Whene'er the land, that loses shadow,
 breathes,
 Like as a taper melts before a fire,
 Even such I was, without a sigh or tear,
 Before the song of those who chime
 forever
 After the chiming of the eternal
 spheres;
 But, when I heard in those sweet
 melodies
 Compassion for me, more than had
 they said,
 "Oh wherefore, lady, dost thou
 thus consume him?"
 The ice, that was about my heart con-
 gealed,
 To air and water changed, and, in
 my anguish,
 Through lips and eyes came gush-
 ing from my breast.

Confusion and dismay, together min-
 gled,
 Forced such a feeble "Yes!" out of
 my mouth,
 To understand it one had need of
 sight.
 Even as a cross-bow breaks, when 't is
 discharged,
 Too tensely drawn the bow-string
 and the bow,
 And with less force the arrow hits
 the mark;
 So I gave way beneath this heavy
 burden,
 Gushing forth into bitter tears and
 sighs,
 And the voice, fainting, flagged
 upon its passage.

TO ITALY

BY VINCENZO DA FILICAJA

ITALY! Italy! thou who'rt doomed to
 wear
 The fatal gift of beauty, and possess
 The dower funest of infinite wretch-
 edness
 Written upon thy forehead by de-
 spair;
 Ah! would that thou wert stronger,
 or less fair,
 That they might fear thee more, or
 love thee less,
 Who in the splendor of thy love-
 liness
 Seem wasting, yet to mortal combat
 dare!
 Then from the Alps I should not see
 descending
 Such torrents of armed men, nor
 Gallic horde
 Drinking the wave of Po, distained
 with gore,
 Nor should I see thee girded with a
 sword
 Not thine, and with the stranger's
 arm contending,
 Victor or vanquished, slave forever-
 more.

SEVEN SONNETS AND A CAN-
ZONE

The following translations are from the poems
 of Michael Angelo as revised by his nephew, Mi-
 chael Angelo the Younger, and were made before
 the publication of the original text by Guasti.

I

THE ARTIST

NOTHING the greatest artist can con-
 ceive
 That every marble block doth not
 confine
 Within itself; and only its design
 The hand that follows intellect can
 achieve.
 The ill I flee, the good that I believe,
 In thee, fair lady, lofty and divine,
 Thus hidden lie; and so that death
 be mine,
 Art, of desired success, doth me be-
 reave.

Love is not gully, then, nor thy fair
face,
Nor fortune, cruelty, nor great dis-
dain,
Of my disgrace, nor chance nor des-
tiny,
If in thy heart both death and love
find place
At the same time, and if my humble
brain,
Burning, can nothing draw but
death from thee.

II

FIRE

Nor without fire can any workman
mould
The iron to his preconceived de-
sign,
Nor can the artist without fire re-
live
And purify from all its dross the
gold;
Nor can revive the phoenix, we are
told,
Except by fire. Hence, if such death
be mine,
I hope to rise again with the divine,
Whom death augments, and time
cannot make old.
O sweet, sweet death! O fortunate
fire that burns
Within me still to renovate my days,
Though I am almost numbered with
the dead!
If by its nature unto heaven returns
This element, me, kindled in its
blaze,
Will it bear upward when my life is
fled.

III

YOUTH AND AGE

Oh give me back the days when loose
and free
To my blind passion were the curb
and rein,
Oh give me back the angelic face
again,
With which all virtue buried seems
to be!

The Artist

Fire

Oh give my panting footsteps back to
me,
That are in age so slow and fraught
with pain,
And fire and moisture in the heart
and brain,
If thou wouldst have me burn and
weep for thee!
If it be true thou livest alone,
Amor,
On the sweet-bitter tears of human
hearts,
In an old man thou canst not wake
desire;
Souls that have almost reached the
other shore

Of a diviner love should feel the
darts,
And be as tinder to a holier fire.

IV

OLD AGE

THE course of my long life hath
reached at last,
In fragile bark o'er a tempestuous
sea,
The common harbor, where must
rendered be
Account of all the actions of the past.
The impassioned phantasy, that, vague
and vast,
Made art an idol and a king to me,
Was an illusion, and but vanity
Were the desires that lured me and
harassed.
The dreams of love, that were so sweet
of yore,
What are they now, when two
deaths may be mine, —
One sure, and one forecasting its
alarms?
Painting and sculpture satisfy no more
The soul now turning to the Love
Divine,
That oped, to embrace us, on the
cross its arms.

V

TO VITTORIA COLONNA

LADY, how can it chance — yet this
we see
In long experience — that will longer
last
A living image carved from quarries
vast
Than its own maker, who dies pre-
sently?
Cause yieldeth to effect if this so be,
And even Nature is by Art sur-
passed;
This know I, who to Art have given
the past,
But see that Time is breaking faith
with me.
Perhaps on both of us long life can I
Either in color or in stone bestow,
By now portraying each in look and
mien;
So that a thousand years after we die,
How fair thou wast, and I how full
of woe,
And wherefore I so loved thee, may
be seen.

VI

TO VITTORIA COLONNA

WHEN the prime mover of my many
 sighs
 Heaven took through death from
 out her earthly place,
 Nature, that never made so fair a
 face,
 Remained ashamed, and tears were
 in all eyes.
 O fate, unheeding my impassioned
 cries!
 O hopes fallacious! O thou spirit of
 grace,
 Where art thou now? Earth holds
 in its embrace
 Thy lovely limbs, thy holy thoughts
 the skies.
 Vainly did cruel death attempt to stay
 The rumor of thy virtuous renown,
 That Lethe's waters could not wash
 away!
 A thousand leaves, since he hath
 stricken thee down,
 Speak of thee, nor to thee could
 Heaven convey,
 Except through death, a refuge and
 a crown.

VII

DANTE

WHAT should be said of him cannot
 be said;
 By too great splendor is his name
 attended;
 To blame is easier those who him
 offended,
 Than reach the faintest glory round
 him shed.
 This man descended to the doomed
 and dead
 For our instruction; then to God as-
 cended;
 Heaven opened wide to him its por-
 tals splendid,
 Who from his country's, closed
 against him, fled.
 Ungrateful land! To its own prejudice
 Nurse of his fortunes; and this
 showeth well
 That the most perfect most of grief
 shall see
 Among a thousand proofs let one suf-
 fice,

To Vittoria Colonna

That as his exile hath no parallel,
 Ne'er walked the earth a greater
 man than he.

VIII

CANZONE

Ah me! ah me! when thinking of the
 years,
 The vanished years, alas, I do not
 find
 Among them all one day that was
 my own!
 Fallacious hopes, desires of the un-
 known,
 Lamenting, loving, burning, and in
 tears,
 (For human passions all have stirred
 my mind,)
 Have held me, now I feel and know,
 confined
 Both from the true and good still far
 away.
 I perish day by day;
 The sunshine fails, the shadows grow
 more dreary,
 And I am near to fall, infirm and
 weary.

THE NATURE OF LOVE

BY GUIDO GUINIZELLI

To noble heart Love doth for shelter
 fly,
 As seeks the bird the forest's leafy
 shade;
 Love was not felt till noble heart beat
 high,
 Nor before love the noble heart was
 made.
 Soon as the sun's broad flame
 Was formed, so soon the clear light
 filled the air;
 Yet was not till he came:
 So love springs up in noble breasts,
 and there
 Has its appointed space,
 As heat in the bright flames finds its
 allotted place.
 Kindles in noble heart the fire of
 love,
 As hidden virtue in the precious stone:
 This virtue comes not from the stars
 above,
 Till round it the ennobling sun has
 shone;
 But when his powerful blaze

Has drawn forth what was vile, the
 stars impart
 Strange virtue in their rays;
 And thus when Nature doth create the
 heart
 Noble and pure and high,
 Like virtue from the star, love comes
 from woman's eye.

FROM THE PORTUGUESE

SONG

BY GIL VICENTE

If thou art sleeping, maiden,
 Awake, and open thy door.
 'T is the break of day, and we must
 away,
 O'er meadow, and mount, and moor.
 Wait not to find thy slippers,
 But come with thy naked feet:
 We shall have to pass through the
 dewy grass,
 And waters wide and fleet.

FROM EASTERN SOURCES

THE FUGITIVE

A TARTAR SONG

I

"He is gone to the desert land!
 I can see the shining mane
 Of his horse on the distant plain,
 As he rides with his Kossak band!
 "Come back, rebellious one!
 Let thy proud heart relent;
 Come back to my tall, white tent,
 Come back, my only son!
 "Thy hand in freedom shall
 Cast thy hawks, when morning
 breaks,
 On the swans of the Seven Lakes,
 On the lakes of Karajal.
 "I will give thee leave to stray
 And pasture thy hunting steeds
 In the long grass and the reeds
 Of the meadows of Karaday.

"I will give thee my coat of mail,
Of softest leather made,
With choicest steel inlaid;
Will not all this prevail?" 20

II

"This hand no longer shall
Cast my hawks, when morning
breaks,
On the swans of the Seven Lakes,
On the lakes of Karajal.

"I will no longer stray
And pasture my hunting steeds
In the long grass and the reeds
Of the meadows of Karaday.

"Though thou give me thy coat of
mail,
Of softest leather made, 30
With choicest steel inlaid,
All this cannot prevail.

"What right hast thou, O Khan,
To me, who am mine own,
Who am slave to God alone,
And not to any man?

"God will appoint the day
When I again shall be
By the blue, shallow sea,
Where the steel-bright sturgeons
play. 40

"God, who doth care for me,
In the barren wilderness,
On unknown hills, no less
Will my companion be.

"When I wander lonely and lost
In the wind; when I watch at
night
Like a hungry wolf, and am white
And covered with hoar-frost;

"Yea, wheresoever I be,
In the yellow desert sands, 50
In mountains or unknown lands,
Allah will care for me!"

III

Then Sobra, the old, old man, --
Three hundred and sixty years
Had he lived in this land of tears,
Bowed down and said, "O Khan!

"If you bid me, I will speak.
 'There's no sap in dry grass,
 No marrow in dry bones! Alas,
 The mind of old men is weak! 60

"I am old, I am very old:
 I have seen the primeval man,
 I have seen the great Genghis Khan,
 Arrayed in his robes of gold.

"What I say to you is the truth;
 And I say to you, O Khan,
 Pursue not the star-white man,
 Pursue not the beautiful youth.

"Him the Almighty made,
 And brought him forth of the
 light 70
 At the verge and end of the night,
 When men on the mountain prayed.

"He was born at the break of day,
 When abroad the angels walk;
 He hath listened to their talk,
 And he knoweth what they say.

"Gifted with Allah's grace,
 Like the moon of Ramazan
 When it shines in the skies, O Khan,
 Is the light of his beautiful face. 80

"When first on earth he trod,
 The first words that he said
 Were these, as he stood and prayed,
 'There is no God but God!'

"And he shall be king of men,
 For Allah hath heard his prayer,
 And the Archangel in the air,
 Gabriel, hath said, Amen!"

THE SIEGE OF KAZAN

BLACK are the moors before Kazan,
 And their stagnant waters smell of
 blood:
 I said in my heart, with horse and
 man,
 I will swim across this shallow flood.

Under the feet of Argamack,
 Like new moons were the shoes he
 bare,
 Bilken trappings hung on his back,
 In a talisman on his neck, a prayer.

My warriors, thought I, are following
 me;
 But when I looked behind, alas!
 Not one of all the band could I see,
 All had sunk in the black morass!

Where are our shallow fords? and
 where
 The power of Kazan with its four-
 fold gates?
 From the prison windows our maidens
 fair
 Talk of us still through the iron
 grates.

We cannot hear them; for horse and
 man
 Lie buried deep in the dark abyss!
 Ah! the black day hath come down on
 Kazan!
 Ah! was ever a grief like this?

THE BOY AND THE BROOK

Down from yon distant mountain
 height
 The brooklet flows through the vil-
 lage street;
 A boy comes forth to wash his hands,
 Washing, yes, washing, there he
 stands,
 In the water cool and sweet.

Brook, from what mountain dost thou
 come?
 O my brooklet cool and sweet!
 I come from yon mountain high and
 cold
 Where lieth the new snow on the old,
 And melts in the summer heat.

Brook, to what river dost thou go?
 O my brooklet cool and sweet!
 I go to the river there below
 Where in bunches the violets grow,
 And sun and shadow meet.

Brook, to what garden dost thou go?
 O my brooklet cool and sweet!
 I go to the garden in the vale
 Where all night long the nightingale
 Her love-song doth repeat.

Brook, to what fountain dost thou go?
 O my brooklet cool and sweet!

"Not one of all the band could I see"

I go to the fountain at whose brink
The maid that loves thee comes to
 drink,
And whenever she looks therein,
I rise to meet her, and kiss her chin,
And my joy is then complete.

TO THE STORK

WELCOME, O Stork! that dost wing
Thy flight from the far-away!

Thou hast brought us the signs of
 Spring,
Thou hast made our sad hearts gay.

Descend, O Stork! descend
Upon our roof to rest;
In our ash tree, O my friend,
My darling, make thy nest.

To thee, O Stork, I complain,
O Stork, to thee I impart

The thousand sorrows, the pain
And aching of my heart.

When thou away didst go,
Away from this tree of ours,
The withering winds did blow,
And dried up all the flowers.

Dark grew the brilliant sky,
Cloudy and dark and drear;
They were breaking the snow on high,
And winter was drawing near.

From Varaca's rocky wall,
From the rock of Varaca unrolled,
The snow came and covered all,
And the green meadow was cold.

O Stork, our garden with snow
Was hidden away and lost,
And the rose-trees that in it grow
Were withered by snow and frost.

FROM THE LATIN

VIRGIL'S FIRST ECLOGUE

MELIBŒUS.

TITYRUS, thou in the shade of a spreading beech tree reclining
Meditatest, with slender pipe, the
Muse of the woodlands.

We our country's bounds and pleasant
pastures relinquish,
We our country fly; thou, Tityrus,
stretched in the shadow,
Teachest the woods to resound with
the name of the fair Amaryllis.

TITYRUS.

O Melibœus, a god for us this leisure
created,
For he will be unto me a god forever;
his altar
Oftentimes shall imbue a tender lamb
from our sheepfolds.
He, my heifers to wander at large, and
myself, as thou seest,
On my rustic reed to play what I will,
hath permitted.

MELIBŒUS.

Truly I envy not, I marvel rather; on
all sides
In all the fields is such trouble. Be-
hold, my goats I am driving.
Heartsick, further away; this one
scarce, Tityrus, lead I;
For having here yeaned twins just
now among the dense hazels,
Hope of the flock, ah me! on the
naked flint she hath left them.
Often this evil to me, if my mind had
not been insensate,

"Descend, O Stork! descend
Upon our roof to rest"

Oak trees stricken by heaven predicted,
as now I remember ;
Often the sinister crow from the hol-
low ilex predicted.
Nevertheless, who this god may be, O
Tityrus, tell me.

TITYRUS.

O Melibœus, the city that they call
Rome, I imagined, ²⁰
Foolish It to be like this of ours,
where often we shepherds
Wonted are to drive down of our ewes
the delicate offspring.
Thus whelps like unto dogs had I
known, and kids to their
mothers,
Thus to compare great things with
small had I been accustomed.
But this among other cities its head as
far hath exalted
As the cypresses do among the lissome
viburnums.

MELIBŒUS.

And what so great occasion of seeing
Rome hath possessed thee?

TITYRUS.

Liberty, which, though late, looked
upon me in my inertness,
After the time when my beard fell
whiter from me in shaving,
Yet she looked upon me, and came to
me after a long while, ³⁰
Since Amaryllis possesses and Galatea
hath left me.
For I will even confess that while Gal-
atea possessed me
Neither care of my flock nor hope of
liberty was there.
Though from my wattled folds there
went forth many a victim,
And the unctuous cheese was pressed
for the city ungrateful,
Never did my right hand return home
heavy with money.

MELIBŒUS.

I have wondered why sad thou in-
vokedst the gods, Amaryllis,
And for whom thou didst suffer the
apples to hang on the branches!
Tityrus hence was absent! Thee, Ti-
tyrus, even the pine trees,

Thee the very fountains, the very
copses were calling. ⁴⁰

TITYRUS.

What could I do? No power had I to
escape from my bondage,
Nor had I power elsewhere to recog-
nize gods so propitious.
Here I beheld that youth, to whom
each year, Melibœus,
During twice six days ascends the
smoke of our altars.
Here first gave he response to me soli-
citing favor:
"Feed as before your heifers, ye boys,
and yoke up your bullocks."

MELIBŒUS.

Fortunate old man! So then thy fields
will be left thee,
And large enough for thee, though
naked stone and the marish
All thy pasture-lands with the dreggy
rush may encompass.
No unaccustomed food thy gravid ewes
shall endanger, ⁵⁰
Nor of the neighboring flock the dire
contagion infect them.
Fortunate old man! Here among
familiar rivers,
And these sacred founts, shalt thou
take the shadowy coolness.
On this side, a hedge along the neigh-
boring cross-road,
Where Hyblæan bees ever feed on the
flower of the willow,
Often with gentle susurrus to fall
asleep shall persuade thee.
Yonder, beneath the high rock, the
pruner shall sing to the breezes,
Nor meanwhile shall the heart's de-
light, the hoarse wood-pigeons,
Nor the turtle-dove cease to mourn
from aerial elm trees.

TITYRUS.

Therefore the agile stags shall sooner
feed in the ether, ⁶⁰
And the billows leave the fishes bare
on the sea-shore,
Sooner, the border-lands of both over-
passed, shall the exiled
Parthian drink of the Soane, or the
German drink of the Tigris,
Than the face of him shall glide away
from my bosom!

"Fortunate old man! Here
 . . . shalt thou take the shadowy coolness"

MELIBŒUS.

But we hence shall go, a part to the
 thirsty Africs,
 Part to Scythia come, and the rapid
 Cretan Oaxes,
 And to the Britons from all the uni-
 verse utterly sundered.
 Ah, shall I ever, a long time hence,
 the bounds of my country
 And the roof of my lowly cottage
 covered with greensward 69
 Seeing, with wonder behold,—my king-
 doms, a handful of wheat-ears!

Shall an impious soldier possess these
 lands newly cultured.
 And these fields of corn a barbarian?
 Lo, whither discord
 Us wretched people hath brought!
 for whom our fields we have
 planted!
 Graft, Melibœus, thy pear trees now,
 put in order thy vineyards.
 Go, my goats, go hence, my flocks so
 happy aforetime.
 Never again henceforth outstretched
 in my verdurous cavern

Shall I behold you afar from the bushy
precipice hanging.
Songs no more shall I sing; not with
me, ye goats, as your shepherd,
Shall ye browse on the bitter willow
or blooming laburnum.

TITYRUS.

Nevertheless, this night together with
me canst thou rest thee 80
Here on the verdant leaves; for us
there are mellowing apples,
Chestnuts soft to the touch, and clouted
cream in abundance;
And the high roofs now of the villages
smoke in the distance,
And from the lofty mountains are fall-
ing larger the shadows.

OVID IN EXILE

AT TOMIS, IN BESSARABIA, NEAR THE
MOUTHS OF THE DANUBE

TRISTIA, BOOK III., ELEGY X.

SHOULD any one there in Rome re-
member Ovid the exile,
And, without me, my name still in
the city survive;

Tell him that under stars which never
set in the ocean
I am existing still, here in a barba-
rous land.

Fierce Sarmatians encompass me
round, and the Bessi and Getæ;
Names how unworthy to be sung
by a genius like mine!

Yet when the air is warm, intervening
Ister defends us:
He, as he flows, repels inroads of
war with his waves.

But when the dismal winter reveals
its hideous aspect,
When all the earth becomes white
with a marble-like frost; 10

And when Boreas is loosed, and the
snow hurled under Arcturus,
Then these nations, in sooth, shud-
der and shiver with cold.

Deep lies the snow, and neither the sun
nor the rain can dissolve it;
Boreas hardens it still, makes it for-
ever remain.

Hence, ere the first has melted away,
another succeeds it,
And two years it is wont, in many
places, to lie.

And so great is the power of the North-
wind awakened, it levels
Lofty towers with the ground, roofs
uplifted bears off.

Wrapped in skins, and with trousers
sewed, they contend with the
weather,
And their faces alone of the whole
body are seen. 20

Often their tresses, when shaken, with
pendent icicles tinkle,
And their whitened beards shine
with the gathering frost.

Wines consolidate stand, preserving
the form of the vessels;
No more draughts of wine, — pieces
presented they drink.

Why should I tell you how all the
rivers are frozen and solid,
And from out of the lake frangible
water is dug?

Ister, — no narrower stream than the
river that bears the papyrus, —
Which through its many mouths
mingles its waves with the
deep;

Ister, with hardening winds, congeals
its cerulean waters,
Under a roof of ice winding its way
to the sea. 30

There where ships have sailed, men go
on foot; and the billows,
Solid made by the frost, hoof-beats
of horses indent.

Over unwonted bridges, with water
gliding beneath them,
The Sarmatian steers drag their bar-
barian carts.

Scarcely shall I be believed ; yet when
naught is gained by a falsehood,
Absolute credence then should to a
witness be given.

I have beheld the vast Black Sea of
ice all compacted,
And a slippery crust pressing its
motionless tides.

'T is not enough to have seen, I have
trodden this indurate ocean;
Dry shod passed my foot over its
uppermost wave. 40

If thou hadst had of old such a sea as
this is, Leander!
Then thy death had not been charged
as a crime to the Strait.

Nor can the curvèd dolphins uplift
themselves from the water ;
All their struggles to rise merciless
winter prevents ;

And though Boreas sound with roar
of wings in commotion,
In the blockaded gulf never a wave
will there be ;

And the ships will stand hemmed in
by the frost, as in marble,
Nor will the oar have power through
the stiff waters to cleave.

Fast-bound in the ice have I seen the
fishes adhering,
Yet notwithstanding this some of
them still were alive. 50

Hence, if the savage strength of omni-
potent Boreas freezes
Whether the salt-sea wave, whether
the reflux stream, —

Straightway, — the Ister made level
by arid blasts of the North-
wind, —
Comes the barbaric foe borne on his
swift-footed steed ;

Foe, that powerful made by his steed
and his far-flying arrows,
All the neighboring land void of in-
habitants makes.

Some take flight, and none being left
to defend their possessions,
Unprotected, their goods pillage and
plunder become ;

Cattle and creaking carts, the little
wealth of the country,
And what riches beside indigent
peasants possess. 60

Some as captives are driven along,
their hands bound behind them,
Looking backward in vain toward
their Lares and lands.

Others, transfixed with barbèd arrows,
in agony perish.
For the swift arrow-heads all have
in poison been dipped.

What they cannot carry or lead away
they demolish,
And the hostile flames burn up the
innocent cots.

Even when there is peace, the fear of
war is impending ;
None, with the ploughshare pressed,
furrows the soil any more.

Either this region sees, or fears a foe
that it sees not,
And the sluggish land slumbers in
utter neglect. 70

No sweet grape lies hidden here in the
shade of its vine-leaves,
No fermenting must fills and o'er-
flows the deep vats.

Apples the region denies ; nor would
Acontius have found here
Aught upon which to write words
for his mistress to read.

Naked and barren plains without
leaves or trees we behold here, —
Places, alas ! unto which no happy
man would repair.

Since then this mighty orb lies open
so wide upon all sides,
Has this region been found only my
prison to be ?

"Now the boys and the laughing girls the violet gather"

TRISTIA, BOOK III., ELEGY XII.

Now the zephyrs diminish the cold,
and the year being ended,
Winter Mæotian seems longer than
ever before;

And the Ram that bore unsafely the
burden of Helle,
Now makes the hours of the day
equal with those of the night.

Now the boys and the laughing girls
the violet gather,
Which the fields bring forth, nobody
sowing the seed.

Now the meadows are blooming with
flowers of various colors,
And with untaught throats carol the
garrulous birds.

Now the swallow, to shun the crime
of her merciless mother,
Under the rafters builds cradles and
dear little homes;

And the blade that lay hid, covered
up in the furrows of Ceres,
Now from the tepid ground raises
its delicate head.

Where there is ever a vine, the bud
shoots forth from the tendrils,
But from the Getic shore distant afar
is the vine!

Where there is ever a tree, on the tree
the branches are swelling,
But from the Getic land distant afar
is the tree!

Now it is holiday there in Rome, and
to games in due order
Give place the windy wars of the
vociferous bar.

Now they are riding the horses; with
light arms now they are play-
ing,
Now with the ball, and now round
rolls the swift-flying hoop:

Now, when the young athlete with
flowing oil is anointed,
He in the Virgin's Fount bathes,
overwearied, his limbs.

Thrives the stage; and applause, with
voices at variance, thunders,
And the Theatres three for the three
Forums resound.

Four times happy is he, and times
without number is happy,
Who the city of Rome, uninter-
dicted, enjoys.

But all I see is the snow in the vernal
sunshine dissolving,
And the waters no more delved from
the indurate lake.

Nor is the sea now frozen, nor as be-
fore o'er the Ister
Comes the Sarmatian boor driving
his stridulous cart. 30

Hitherward, nevertheless, some keels
already are steering,
And on this Pontic shore alien ves-
sels will be.

Eagerly shall I run to the sailor, and,
having saluted,
Who he may be, I shall ask; where-
fore and whence he hath come.

Strange indeed will it be, if he come
not from regions adjacent,
And incautious unless ploughing the
neighboring sea.

Rarely a mariner over the deep from
Italy passes,

Rarely he comes to these shores,
wholly of harbors devoid.

Whether he knoweth Greek, or whe-
ther in Latin he speaketh,
Surely on this account he the more
welcome will be. 40

Also perchance from the mouth of the
Strait and the waters Propontic,
Unto the steady South-wind, some
one is spreading his sails.

Whosoever he is, the news he can
faithfully tell me,
Which may become a part and an
approach to the truth.

He, I pray, may be able to tell me the
triumphs of Cæsar,
Which he has heard of, and vows
paid to the Latian Jove;

And that thy sorrowful head, Germa-
nia, thou, the rebellious,
Under the feet, at last, of the Great
Captain hast laid.

Whoso shall tell me these things, that
not to have seen will afflict me,
Forthwith unto my house welcomed
as guest shall he be. 50

Woe is me! Is the house of Ovid in
Scythian lands now?
And doth punishment now give me
its place for a home?

Grant, ye gods, that Cæsar make this not
my house and my homestead,
But decree it to be only the inn of
my pain.



NOTES

Page 5. *He the young and strong.*

[Refers to the poet's friend and brother-in-law, George W. Pierce.]

Page 5. *The Being Beauteous.*

[The reference is to the first Mrs. Long-fellow.]

Page 15. **THE SKELETON IN ARMOR.**

This ballad was suggested to me while riding on the sea-shore at Newport. A year or two previous a skeleton had been dug up at Fall River, clad in broken and corroded armor; and the idea occurred to me of connecting it with the Round Tower at Newport, generally known hitherto as the Old Windmill, though now claimed by the Danes as a work of their early ancestors. Professor Rafn, in the *Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord*, for 1838-1839, says:—

"There is no mistaking in this instance the style in which the more ancient stone edifices of the North were constructed,—the style which belongs to the Roman or Ante-Gothic architecture, and which, especially after the time of Charlemagne, diffused itself from Italy over the whole of the West and North of Europe, where it continued to predominate until the close of the twelfth century,—that style which some authors have, from one of its most striking characteristics, called the round arch style, the same which in England is denominated Saxon and sometimes Norman architecture.

"On the ancient structure in Newport there are no ornaments remaining, which might possibly have served to guide us in assigning the probable date of its erection. That no vestige whatever is found of the pointed arch, nor any approximation to it, is indicative of an earlier rather than of a later period. From such characteristics as remain, however, we can scarcely form any other inference than one, in which I am persuaded that all who are familiar with Old-Northern architecture will concur, THAT THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED AT A PERIOD DECIDEDLY NOT LATER THAN THE TWELFTH CENTURY. This remark applies, of course, to the original building only, and not to the alterations that it subsequently received; for there are several such alterations in the upper part of the building which cannot be mistaken, and

which were most likely occasioned by its being adapted in modern times to various uses; for example, as the substructure of a windmill, and latterly as a hay magazine. To the same times may be referred the windows, the fireplace, and the apertures made above the columns. That this building could not have been erected for a windmill, is what an architect will easily discern."

I will not enter into a discussion of the point. It is sufficiently well established for the purpose of a ballad; though doubtless many a citizen of Newport, who has passed his days within sight of the Round Tower, will be ready to exclaim, with Sancho: "God bless me! did I not warn you to have a care of what you were doing, for that it was nothing but a windmill; and nobody could mistake it, but one who had the like in his head."

Page 17. *Skoal!*

In Scandinavia, this is the customary salutation when drinking a health. I have slightly changed the orthography of the word, in order to preserve the correct pronunciation.

Page 22. *Of three friends all true and tried.*

[The three friends were Charles Sumner, Charles Folsom, and Charles Amory.]

Page 30. *As Lope says.*

"La cólera
de un Español sentado no se templa,
sino le representan en dos horas
hasta el final juicio desde el Génesis."

Lope de Vega

Page 31. *Abrenuncio Satanas!*

"Digo, Señora, respondió Sancho, lo que tengo dicho, que de los azotes abrenuncio. Abrenuncio, habeis de decir, Sancho, y no como decís, dijo el Duque."—*Don Quixote*, Part II. ch. 35.

Page 36. *Fray Carrillo.*

The allusion here is to a Spanish epigram.

"Siempre Fray Carrillo estás
cansándonos acá fuera;
quien en tu celda estuviera
para no verte jamas!"

Böhl de Faber. Floresta, No. 611.

Page 36. *Padre Francisco.*

This is from an Italian popular song.

“ ‘ Padre Francesco,
Padre Francesco !’
— Cosa volete del Padre Francesco ? —
‘ V’ è una bella ragazzina
Che si vuole confessar !’
Fatte l’ entrare, fatte l’ entrare !
Che la voglio confessare.”
*Kopisch. Volksthümliche Poesien aus al-
len Mundarten Italiens und seiner In-
seln, p. 194.*

Page 37. *Ave ! cujus calcem clare.*
From a monkish hymn of the twelfth century, in Sir Alexander Croke’s *Essay on the Origin, Progress, and Decline of Rhyming Latin Verse*, p. 109.

Page 40. *The gold of the Busné.*
Busné is the name given by the Gypsies to all who are not of their race.

Page 41. *Count of the Calés.*
The Gypsies call themselves Calés. See Borrow’s valuable and extremely interesting work, *The Zincali ; or an Account of the Gypsies in Spain*. London, 1841.

Page 43. *Asks if his money-bags would rise.*

“ ¿ Y volviéndome á un lado, ví á un Avariento, que estaba preguntando á otro, (que por haber sido embalsamado, y estar léxos sus tripas no hablaba, porque no habian llegado si habian de resucitar aquel dia todos los enterrados) si resucitarian unos bolsones suyos ? ” — *El Sueño de las Calaveras.*

Page 43. *And amen ! said my Cid the Campeador.*

A line from the ancient *Poema del Cid*.

“ Amen, dixo Mio Cid el Campeador.”
Line 3044.

Page 44. *The river of his thoughts.*
This expression is from Dante :

“ Si che chiaro
Per essa scenda della mente il fiume.”

Byron has likewise used the expression :

“ She was his life,
The ocean to the river of his thoughts.
Which terminated all.”

The Dream.

Page 44. *Mari Franca.*

A common Spanish proverb, used to turn aside a question one does not wish to answer :

“ Porque casó Mari Franca
quatro leguas de Salamanca.”

Page 45. *Ay, soft, emerald eyes.*

The Spaniards, with good reason, consider this color of the eye as beautiful, and celebrate it in song ; as, for example, in the well-known *Villancico* :

“ Ay ojuelos verdes,
ay los mis ojuelos,
ay hagan los cielos
que de mí te acuerdes !

Tengo confianza
de mis verdes ojos.”
Böhl de Faber. Floresta, No 255

Dante speaks of Beatrice’s eyes as emeralds. *Purgatorio*, xxxi. 116. Lami says, in his *Annotazioni*, “ Erano i suoi occhi d’ un turchino verdiccio, simile a quel del mare.”

Page 46. *The Avenging Child.*

See the ancient Ballads of *El Infante Vengador*, and *Calaynos*.

Page 46. *All are sleeping.*

From the Spanish. *Böhl de Faber. Floresta, No. 282.*

Page 52. *Good night.*

From the Spanish ; as are likewise the songs immediately following, and that which commences the first scene of Act III.

Page 60. *The evil eye.*

“ In the Gitano language, casting the evil eye is called *Querelar nasula*, which simply means making sick, and which, according to the common superstition, is accomplished by casting an evil look at people, especially children, who, from the tenderness of their constitution, are supposed to be more easily blighted than those of a more mature age. After receiving the evil glance, they fall sick, and die in a few hours.

“ The Spaniards have very little to say respecting the evil eye, though the belief in it is very prevalent, especially in Andalusia, amongst the lower orders. A stag’s horn is considered a good safeguard, and on that account a small horn, tipped with silver, is frequently attached to the children’s necks by means of a cord braided from the hair of a black mare’s tail. Should the evil glance be cast, it is imagined that the horn receives it, and instantly snaps asunder. Such horns may be purchased in some of the silversmiths’ shops at Seville.” — BORROW’S *Zincali*, Vol. I. ch. ix.

Page 60. *On the top of a mountain I stand.*

This and the following scraps of song are from Borrow’s *Zincali ; or an Account of the Gypsies in Spain*.

The Gypsy words in the same scene may be thus interpreted : —

John-Dorados, pieces of gold.

Pigeon, a simpleton.

In your morocco, stripped.

Doves, sheets.

Moon, a shirt.

Chirelin, a thief.

Murcigalleros, those who steal at night fall.

Rastilleros, footpads.

Hermit, highway-robber.

Planets, candles.

Commandments, the fingers.

Saint Martin asleep, to rob a person asleep.

Lanterns, eyes.

Goblin, police officer.

Papagayo, a spy.

Vineyards and Dancing John, to take flight.

Page 64. *If thou art sleeping, maiden.*

From the Spanish; as is likewise the song of the Contrabandista on page 65.

Page 68. *All the Foresters of Flanders.*

The title of Foresters was given to the early governors of Flanders, appointed by the kings of France. Lyderick du Bucq, in the days of Clotaire the Second, was the first of them; and Beaudoin Bras-de-Fer, who stole away the fair Judith, daughter of Charles the Bald, from the French court, and married her in Bruges, was the last. After him the title of Forester was changed to that of Count. Philippe d'Alsace, Guy de Dampierre, and Louis de Crécy, coming later in the order of time, were therefore rather Counts than Foresters. Philippe went twice to the Holy Land as a Crusader, and died of the plague at St. Jean-d'Acre, shortly after the capture of the city by the Christians. Guy de Dampierre died in the prison of Compiègne. Louis de Crécy was son and successor of Robert de Béthune, who strangled his wife, Yolande de Bourgogne, with the bridle of his horse, for having poisoned, at the age of eleven years, Charles, his son by his first wife, Blanche d'Anjou.

Page 68. *Stately dames, like queens attended.*

When Philippe-le-Bel, king of France, visited Flanders with his queen, she was so astonished at the magnificence of the dames of Bruges, that she exclaimed: "Je croyais être seule reine ici, mais il paraît que ceux de Flandre qui se trouvent dans nos prisons sont tous des princes, car leurs femmes sont habillées comme des princesses et des reines."

When the burgomasters of Ghent, Bruges, and Ypres went to Paris to pay homage to King John, in 1351, they were received with great pomp and distinction; but, being invited to a festival, they observed that their seats at table were not furnished with cushions; whereupon, to make known their displeasure at this want of regard to their dignity, they folded their richly embroidered cloaks and seated themselves upon them. On rising from table, they left their cloaks behind them, and, being informed of their apparent forgetfulness, Simon van Eertrycke, burgomaster of Bruges, replied, "We Flemings are not in the habit of carrying away our cushions after dinner."

Page 68. *Knights who bore the Fleece of Gold.*

Philippe de Bourgogne, surnamed Le Bon, espoused Isabella of Portugal on the 10th of January, 1430; and on the same day instituted the famous order of the Fleece of Gold.

Page 69. *I beheld the gentle Mary.*

Marie de Valois, Duchess of Burgundy, was left by the death of her father, Charles-le-Téméraire, at the age of twenty, the richest heiress of Europe. She came to Bruges, as Countess of Flanders, in 1477, and in the same year was married by proxy to the Archduke Maximilian. According to the custom of the time, the Duke of Bavaria, Maximilian's substitute, slept with the princess. They were both in complete dress, separated by a naked sword, and attended by four armed guards. Marie was adored by her subjects for her gentleness and her many other virtues.

Maximilian was son of the Emperor Frederick the Third, and is the same person mentioned afterwards in the poem of *Nuremberg* as the Kaiser Maximilian, and the hero of Pfinzing's poem of *Teuerdank*. Having been imprisoned by the revolted burghers of Bruges, they refused to release him, till he consented to kneel in the public square, and to swear on the Holy Evangelists and the body of Saint Donatus, that he would not take vengeance upon them for their rebellion.

Page 69. *The bloody battle of the Spurs of Gold.*

This battle, the most memorable in Flemish history, was fought under the walls of Courtray, on the 11th of July, 1302, between the French and the Flemings, the former commanded by Robert, Comte d'Artois, and the latter by Guillaume de Juliers, and Jean, Comte de Namur. The French army was completely routed, with a loss of twenty thousand infantry and seven thousand cavalry; among whom were sixty-three princes, dukes, and counts, seven hundred lords-banneret, and eleven hundred noblemen. The flower of the French nobility perished on that day, to which history has given the name of the *Journée des Eperons d'Or*, from the great number of golden spurs found on the field of battle. Seven hundred of them were hung up as a trophy in the church of Notre Dame de Courtray; and, as the cavaliers of that day wore but a single spur each, these vouched to God for the violent and bloody death of seven hundred of his creatures.

Page 69. *Saw the fight at Minnewater.*

When the inhabitants of Bruges were digging a canal at Minnewater, to bring the waters of the Lys from Deynze to their

city, they were attacked and routed by the citizens of Ghent, whose commerce would have been much injured by the canal. They were led by Jean Lyons, captain of a military company at Ghent, called the *Chaperons Blancs*. He had great sway over the turbulent populace, who, in those prosperous times of the city, gained an easy livelihood by laboring two or three days in the week, and had the remaining four or five to devote to public affairs. The fight at Minnewater was followed by open rebellion against Louis de Maele, the Count of Flanders and Protector of Bruges. His superb château of Wondelghem was pillaged and burnt; and the insurgents forced the gates of Bruges, and entered in triumph, with Lyons mounted at their head. A few days afterwards he died suddenly, perhaps by poison.

Meanwhile the insurgents received a check at the village of Nevèle; and two hundred of them perished in the church, which was burned by the Count's orders. One of the chiefs, Jean de Lannoy, took refuge in the belfry. From the summit of the tower he held forth his purse filled with gold, and begged for deliverance. It was in vain. His enemies cried to him from below to save himself as best he might; and, half suffocated with smoke and flame, he threw himself from the tower and perished at their feet. Peace was soon afterwards established, and the Count retired to faithful Bruges.

Page 69. *The Golden Dragon's nest.*

The Golden Dragon, taken from the church of St. Sophia, at Constantinople, in one of the Crusades, and placed on the belfry of Bruges, was afterwards transported to Ghent by Philip van Artevelde, and still adorns the belfry of that city.

The inscription on the alarm-bell at Ghent is, "*Mynen naem is Roland; als ik klep is er brand, and als ik luy is er victorie in het land.*" My name is Roland; when I toll there is fire, and when I ring there is victory in the land.

Page 71. *That their great imperial city stretched its hand through every clime.*

An old popular proverb of the town runs thus:—

"*Nürnberg's Hand
Geht durch alle Land.*"

Nuremberg's hand
Goes through every land.

Page 71. *Sat the poet Melchior singing Kaiser Maximilian's praise.*

Melchior Pfinzing was one of the most celebrated German poets of the sixteenth century. The hero of his *Teuerdank* was the reigning emperor, Maximilian; and the poem was to the Germans of that day

what the *Orlando Furioso* was to the Italians. Maximilian is mentioned before, in the *Belfry of Bruges*. See p. 69.

Page 71. *In the church of sainted Sebald sleeps enshrined his holy dust.*

The tomb of Saint Sebald, in the church which bears his name, is one of the richest works of art in Nuremberg. It is of bronze, and was cast by Peter Vischer and his sons, who labored upon it thirteen years. It is adorned with nearly one hundred figures, among which those of the Twelve Apostles are conspicuous for size and beauty.

Page 71. *In the church of sainted Lawrence stands a pyx of sculpture rare.*

This pyx, or tabernacle for the vessels of the sacrament, is by the hand of Adam Kraft. It is an exquisite piece of sculpture in white stone, and rises to the height of sixty-four feet. It stands in the choir, whose richly painted windows cover it with varied colors.

Page 72. *Wisest of the Twelve Wise Masters.*

The Twelve Wise Masters was the title of the original corporation of the Mastersingers. Hans Sachs, the cobbler of Nuremberg, though not one of the original Twelve, was the most renowned of the Mastersingers, as well as the most voluminous. He flourished in the sixteenth century; and left behind him thirty-four folio volumes of manuscript, containing two hundred and eight plays, one thousand and seven hundred comic tales, and between four and five thousand lyric poems.

Page 72. *As in Adam Puschman's song.*

Adam Puschman, in his poem on the death of Hans Sachs, describes him as he appeared in a vision:—

"An old man,
Gray and white, and dove-like,
Who had, in sooth, a great beard,
And read in a fair, great book,
Beautiful with golden clasps."

Page 77. *THE OCCULTATION OF ORION.*

Astronomically speaking, this title is incorrect; as I apply to a constellation what can properly be applied to some of its stars only. But my observation is made from the hill of song, and not from that of science; and will, I trust, be found sufficiently accurate for the present purpose.

Page 78. *THE BRIDGE.*

[At first localized as *The Bridge over the Charles.*]

Page 79. *Who, unharmed, on his tusks, once caught the bolts of the thunder.*

"A delegation of warriors from the Delaware tribe having visited the governor of Virginia, during the Revolution, on mat-

ters of business, after these had been discussed and settled in council, the governor asked them some questions relative to their country, and among others, what they knew or had heard of the animal whose bones were found at the Saltlicks on the Ohio. Their chief speaker immediately put himself into an attitude of oratory, and with a pomp suited to what he conceived the elevation of his subject, informed him that it was a tradition handed down from their fathers, 'that in ancient times a herd of these tremendous animals came to the Big-bone licks, and began an universal destruction of the bear, deer, elks, buffaloes, and other animals which had been created for the use of the Indians: that the Great Man above, looking down and seeing this, was so enraged that he seized his lightning, descended on the earth, seated himself on a neighboring mountain, on a rock of which his seat and the print of his feet are still to be seen, and hurled his bolts among them till the whole were slaughtered, except the big bull, who, presenting his forehead to the shafts, shook them off as they fell; but missing one at length, it wounded him in the side; whereon, springing round, he bounded over the Ohio, over the Wabash, the Illinois, and finally over the great lakes, where he is living at this day.' — JEFFERSON'S *Notes on Virginia*, Query VI.

Page 81. *Walter von der Vogelweid.*

Walter von der Vogelweid, or Bird-Meadow, was one of the principal Minnesingers of the thirteenth century. He triumphed over Heinrich von Ofterdingen in that poetic contest at Wartburg Castle, known in literary history as the War of Wartburg.

Page 82. *Stands the old-fashioned country-seat.*

[The Gold house in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the homestead of Mrs. Longfellow's maternal grandfather.]

Page 84. *Like imperial Charlemagne.*

Charlemagne may be called by preëminence the monarch of farmers. According to the German tradition, in seasons of great abundance, his spirit crosses the Rhine on a golden bridge at Bingen, and blesses the cornfields and the vineyards. During his lifetime, he did not disdain, says Montesquieu, "to sell the eggs from the farmyards of his domains, and the superfluous vegetables of his gardens; while he distributed among his people the wealth of the Lombards and the immense treasures of the Huns."

Page 90. *"Sunshine of Saint Eulalie" was she called.*

"Si le soleil rit le jour Sainte-Eulalie
Il y aura pommes et cidre à folie."

PLUQUET in WRIGHT, I. 131.

Page 91. *Flashed like a plane-tree the Persian adorned with mantles and jewels.*

See Evelyn's *Silva*, II. 53. [The story runs back to Herodotus, VII. 31, the "Persian" being Xerxes.]

Page 105. *Thou art too fair to be left to braid St. Catherine's tresses.*

There is a Norman saying of a maid who does not marry — *Elle restera pour coiffer Sainte Katherine.*

Page 127.

*Behold, at last,
Each tall and tapering mast
Is swung into its place.*

I wish to anticipate a criticism on this passage, by stating, that sometimes, though not usually, vessels are launched fully sparred and rigged. I have availed myself of the exception as better suited to my purposes than the general rule; but the reader will see that it is neither a blunder nor a poetic license. On this subject a friend in Portland, Maine, writes me thus: —

"In this State, and also, I am told, in New York, ships are sometimes rigged upon the stocks, in order to save time, or to make a show. There was a fine large ship launched last summer at Ellsworth, fully sparred and rigged. Some years ago a ship was launched here, with her rigging, spars, sails, and cargo aboard. She sailed the next day and — was never heard of again! I hope this will not be the fate of your poem!"

Page 131. SIR HUMPHREY GILBERT.

"When the wind abated and the vessels were near enough, the Admiral was seen constantly sitting in the stern, with a book in his hand. On the 9th of September he was seen for the last time, and was heard by the people of the Hind to say, 'We are as near heaven by sea as by land.' In the following night, the lights of the ship suddenly disappeared. The people in the other vessel kept a good lookout for him during the remainder of the voyage. On the 22d of September they arrived, through much tempest and peril, at Falmouth. But nothing more was seen or heard of the Admiral." — BELKNAP'S *American Biography*, I. 203.

Page 133. RESIGNATION.

[Written after the death of the poet's little daughter Fanny.]

*These severe afflictions
Not from the ground arise.*

"Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground." — *Job* v. 6.

Page 140. THE SONG OF HIAWATHA.

This Indian Edda — if I may so call it — is founded on a tradition prevalent among the North American Indians, of a person

age of miraculous birth, who was sent among them to clear their rivers, forests, and fishing-grounds, and to teach them the arts of peace. He was known among different tribes by the several names of Michabou, Chiabo, Manabozo, Tarenawagon, and Hiawatha. Mr. Schoolcraft gives an account of him in his *Algonic Researches*, Vol. I. p. 134; and in his *History, Condition, and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States*, Part III. p. 314, may be found the Iroquois form of the tradition, derived from the verbal narrations of an Onondaga chief.

Into this old tradition I have woven other curious Indian legends, drawn chiefly from the various and valuable writings of Mr. Schoolcraft, to whom the literary world is greatly indebted for his indefatigable zeal in rescuing from oblivion so much of the legendary lore of the Indians.

The scene of the poem is among the Ojibways on the southern shore of Lake Superior, in the region between the Pictured Rocks and the Grand Sable.

VOCABULARY.

Adjidau'mo, *the red squirrel*.
 Ahdeek', *the reindeer*.
 Ahkose'win, *fever*.
 Ahmeek', *the beaver*.
 Algon'quin, *Ojibway*.
 Annemee'kee, *the thunder*.
 Apuk'wa, *a bulrush*.
 Baim-wa'wa, *the sound of the thunder*.
 Bemah'gut, *the grapevine*.
 Be'na, *the pheasant*.
 Big-Sea-Water, *Lake Superior*.
 Bukada'win, *famine*.
 Cheemaun', *a birch canoe*.
 Chetowalk', *the plover*.
 Chibia'bos, *a musician; friend of Hiawatha; ruler in the Land of Spirits*.
 Dahin'da, *the bull-frog*.
 Dush-kwo-ne'she, or Kwo-ne'she, *the dragon-fly*.
 Eaa, *shame upon you*.
 Ewa-yea', *lullaby*.
 Ghee'zis, *the sun*.
 Gitche Gu'mee, *the Big-Sea-Water, Lake Superior*.
 Gitche Man'ito, *the Great Spirit, the Master of Life*.
 Gushkewau', *the darkness*.
 Hiawa'tha, *the Wise Man, the Teacher; son of Mudjekeewis, the West-Wind, and Wenonah, daughter of Nokomis*.
 Ia'goo, *a great boaster and story-teller*.
 Inin'ewug, *men, or pawns in the Game of the Bowl*.
 Ishkoodah', *fire; a comet*.
 Jee'bi, *a ghost, a spirit*.
 Joss'akeed, *a prophet*.
 Kabibonok'ka, *the North-Wind*.
 Kagh, *the hedge-hog*.
 Ka'go, *do not*.
 Kahgahgee', *the raven*.
 Kaw, *no*.
 Kaween', *no indeed*.
 Kayoshk', *the sea-gull*.
 Kee'go, *a fish*.

Keeway'din, *the Northwest-Wind, the Home wind*.
 Kena'beek, *a serpent*.
 Keneu', *the great war-eagle*.
 Keno'zha, *the pickerel*.
 Ko'ko-ko'ho, *the owl*.
 Kuntasoo', *the Game of Plum-stones*.
 Kwa'sind, *the Strong Man*.
 Kwo-ne'she, or Dush-kwo-ne'she, *the dragon-fly*.
 Mahnahbe'zee, *the swan*.
 Mahng, *the loon*.
 Mahn-go-tay'see, *loon-hearted, brave*.
 Mahnomo'nee, *wild rice*.
 Ma'ma, *the woodpecker*.
 Maskeno'zha, *the pike*.
 Me'da, *a medicine-man*.
 Meenah'ga, *the blueberry*.
 Megissog'won, *the great Pearl-Feather, a magician, and the Manito of Wealth*.
 Meshinau'wa, *a pipe-bearer*.
 Minjekah'wun, *Hiawatha's mittens*.
 Minneha'ha, *Laughing Water; a water-fall on a stream running into the Mississippi, between Fort Snelling and the Falls of St. Anthony*.
 Minneha'ha, *Laughing Water; wife of Hiawatha*.
 Minne-wa'wa, *a pleasant sound as of the wind in the trees*.
 Mishe-Mo'kwa, *the Great Bear*.
 Mishe-Nah'ma, *the Great Sturgeon*.
 Miskodeed', *the Spring-Beauty, the Claytonia Virginica*.
 Monda'min, *Indian corn*.
 Moon of Bright Nights, *April*.
 Moon of Leaves, *May*.
 Moon of Strawberries, *June*.
 Moon of the Falling Leaves, *September*.
 Moon of Snow-Shoes, *November*.
 Mudjeekeewis, *the West-Wind; father of Hiawatha*.
 Mudway-aush'ka, *sound of waves on a shore*.
 Mushkoda'sa, *the grouse*.
 Nah'ma, *the sturgeon*.
 Nah'ma-wusk, *spearmint*.
 Na'gow Wud'joo, *the Sand Dunes of Lake Superior*.
 Nee-ba-naw'baiga, *water spirits*.
 Nenemoo'sha, *sweetheart*.
 Nepah'win, *sleep*.
 Noko'mis, *a grandmother; mother of Wenonah*.
 No'sa, *my father*.
 Nush'ka, *look! look!*
 Odah'min, *the strawberry*.
 Okahah'wis, *the fresh-water herring*.
 Ome'me, *the pigeon*.
 Ona'gon, *a bowl*.
 Onaway', *awake*.
 Ope'chee, *the robin*.
 Osse'o, *Son of the Evening Star*.
 Owais'sa, *the bluebird*.
 Oweenee', *wife of Osseo*.
 Ozawa'beek, *a round piece of brass or copper in the Game of the Bowl*.
 Pah-puk-kee'na, *the grasshopper*.
 Pau'guk, *death*.
 Pau-Puk-Kee'wis, *the handsome Yonadisze, the Storm Fool*.
 Pauwa'ting, *Sault Sainte Marie*.
 Pe'boan, *winter*.
 Pem'ican, *meat of the deer or buffalo dried and pounded*.
 Pezhekee', *the bison*.
 Pishnekuh', *the brant*.

Pone'mah, hereafter.

Pugasing', *Game of the Bowl.*

Puggawau'gun, *a war-club.*

Puk-Wudj'ies, *little wild men of the woods; pygmies.*

Sah-sah-je'wun, *rapids.*

Sah'wa, *the perch.*

Segwun', *Spring.*

Sha'da, *the pelican.*

Shahbo'min, *the gooseberry.*

Shah-shah, *long ago.*

Shaugoda'ya, *a coward.*

Shawgashee', *the craw-fish.*

Shawonda'see, *the South-Wind.*

Shaw-shaw, *the swallow.*

Sheah'ebwug, *ducks; pieces in the Game of the Bowl.*

Shin'gebis, *the diver or grebe.*

Showain' name'shin, *pity me.*

Shuh-shuh'gah, *the blue heron.*

Soan-ge-ta'ha, *strong hearted.*

Subbeka'she, *the spider.*

Sugge'ma, *the mosquito.*

To'tem, *family coat-of-arms.*

Ugh, *yes.*

Ugudwash', *the sun-fish.*

Unktahee', *the God of Water.*

Wabas'so, *the rabbit; the North.*

Wabe'no, *a magician, a juggler.*

Wabe'no-wusk, *yellow.*

Wa'bun, *the East-Wind.*

Wa'bun An'nung, *the Star of the East, the Morning Star.*

Wahono'win, *a cry of lamentation.*

Wah-wah-tay'see, *the fire-fly.*

Wam'pum, *beads of shell.*

Waubewy'on, *a white skin wrapper.*

Wa'wa, *the wild-goose.*

Waw'beek, *a rock.*

Waw-be-wa'wa, *the white goose.*

Wawonais'sa, *the whippoorwill.*

Way-muk-kwua'na, *the caterpillar.*

Wen'digoes, *giants.*

Weno'nah, *Hiawatha's mother, daughter of Nokomis.*

Yenadiz'ze, *an idler and gambler; an Indian dandy.*

Page 141. *In the Vale of Tawasentha.*

This valley, now called Norman's Kill, is in Albany County, New York.

Page 142. *On the Mountains of the Prairie.*

Mr. Catlin, in his *Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Condition of the North American Indians*, Vol. II. p. 160, gives an interesting account of the *Côteau des Prairies*, and the Red Pipe-stone Quarry. He says:—

"Here (according to their traditions) happened the mysterious birth of the red pipe, which has blown its fumes of peace and war to the remotest corners of the continent; which has visited every warrior, and passed through its reddened stem the irrevocable oath of war and desolation. And here, also, the peace-breathing calumet was born, and fringed with the eagle's quills, which has shed its thrilling fumes over the land, and soothed the fury of the relentless savage.

"The Great Spirit at an ancient period here called the Indian nations together, and, standing on the precipice of the Red pipe-stone rock, broke from its wall a piece, and made a huge pipe by turning it in his hand, which he smoked over them, and to the North, the South, the East, and the West, and told them that this stone was red, — that it was their flesh, — that they must use it for their pipes of peace, — that it belonged to them all, and that the war-club and scalping-knife must not be raised on its ground. At the last whiff of his pipe his head went into a great cloud, and the whole surface of the rock for several miles was melted and glazed; two great ovens were opened beneath, and two women (guardian spirits of the place) entered them in a blaze of fire; and they are heard there yet (Tso-mec-cos-tee and Tso-me-cos-te-won-dee), answering to the invocations of the high-priests or medicine-men, who consult them when they are visitors to this sacred place."

Page 144. *Hark you, Bear! you are a coward.*

This anecdote is from Heckewelder. In his account of the *Indian Nations*, he describes an Indian hunter as addressing a bear in nearly these words. "I was present," he says, "at the delivery of this curious invective; when the hunter had despatched the bear, I asked him how he thought that poor animal could understand what he said to it. 'O,' said he in answer, 'the bear understood me very well; did you not observe how ashamed he looked while I was upbraiding him?'" — *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. I. p. 240.

Page 148. *Hush! the Naked Bear will hear thee!*

Heckewelder, in a letter published in the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. IV. p. 260, speaks of this tradition as prevalent among the Mohicans and Delawares.

"Their reports," he says, "run thus: that among all animals that had been formerly in this country, this was the most ferocious; that it was much larger than the largest of the common bears, and remarkably long-bodied; all over (except a spot of hair on its back of a white color) naked. . . ."

"The history of this animal used to be a subject of conversation among the Indians, especially when in the woods a hunting. I have also heard them say to their children when crying: 'Hush! the naked bear will hear you, be upon you, and devour you!'"

Page 152. *Where the Falls of Minnehaha, etc.*

"The scenery about Fort Snelling is rich in beauty. The Falls of St. Anthony are familiar to travellers, and to readers of Indian sketches. Between the fort and these falls are the 'Little Falls,' forty feet in height, on a stream that empties into the Mississippi. The Indians called them Mine-hah-hah, or 'Laughing waters.'" — MRS. EASTMAN'S *Dacotah, or Legends of the Sioux*, Introd., p. ii.

Page 169. *Sand Hills of the Nagow Wudjoo.*

A description of the *Grand Sable*, or great sand-dunes of Lake Superior, is given in Foster and Whitney's *Report on the Geology of the Lake Superior Land District*, Part II. p. 131.

"The Grand Sable possesses a scenic interest little inferior to that of the Pictured Rocks. The explorer passes abruptly from a coast of consolidated sand to one of loose materials; and although in the one case the cliffs are less precipitous, yet in the other they attain a higher altitude. He sees before him a long reach of coast, resembling a vast sand-bank, more than three hundred and fifty feet in height, without a trace of vegetation. Ascending to the top, rounded hillocks of blown sand are observed, with occasional clumps of trees, standing out like oases in the desert."

Page 169. *Onaway! Awake, beloved!*

The original of this song may be found in Littell's *Living Age*, Vol. XXV. p. 45.

Page 170. *Or the Red Swan floating, flying.*

The fanciful tradition of the Red Swan may be found in Schoolcraft's *Algic Researches*, Vol. II. p. 9. Three brothers were hunting on a wager to see who would bring home the first game.

"They were to shoot no other animal," so the legend says, "but such as each was in the habit of killing. They set out different ways: Odjibwa, the youngest, had not gone far before he saw a bear, an animal he was not to kill, by the agreement. He followed him close, and drove an arrow through him, which brought him to the ground. Although contrary to the bet, he immediately commenced skinning him, when suddenly something red tinged all the air around him. He rubbed his eyes, thinking he was perhaps deceived; but without effect, for the red hue continued. At length he heard a strange noise at a distance. It first appeared like a human voice, but after following the sound for some distance, he reached the shores of a lake, and soon saw the object he was looking for. At a distance out in the lake sat a most beautiful Red Swan, whose plumage glittered in the sun, and who would

now and then make the same noise he had heard. He was within long bow-shot, and, pulling the arrow from the bowstring up to his ear, took deliberate aim and shot. The arrow took no effect; and he shot and shot again till his quiver was empty. Still the swan remained, moving round and round, stretching its long neck and dipping its bill into the water, as if heedless of the arrows shot at it. Odjibwa ran home, and got all his own and his brother's arrows, and shot them all away. He then stood and gazed at the beautiful bird. While standing, he remembered his brother's saying that in their deceased father's medicine-sack were three magic arrows. Off he started, his anxiety to kill the swan overcoming all scruples. At any other time, he would have deemed it sacrilege to open his father's medicine-sack; but now he hastily seized the three arrows and ran back, leaving the other contents of the sack scattered over the lodge. The swan was still there. He shot the first arrow with great precision, and came very near to it. The second came still closer; as he took the last arrow, he felt his arm firmer, and, drawing it up with vigor, saw it pass through the neck of the swan a little above the breast. Still it did not prevent the bird from flying off, which it did, however, at first slowly, flapping its wings and rising gradually into the air, and then flying off toward the sinking of the sun." — pp. 10-12.

Page 174. *When I think of my beloved.*

The original of this song may be found in *Oneota*, p. 15.

Page 175. *Sing the mysteries of Mon-damin.*

The Indians hold the maize, or Indian corn, in great veneration. "They esteem it so important and divine a grain," says Schoolcraft, "that their story-tellers invented various tales, in which this idea is symbolized under the form of a special gift from the Great Spirit. The Odjibwa-Algonquins, who call it Mon-dá-min, that is, the Spirit's grain or berry, have a pretty story of this kind, in which the stalk in full tassel is represented as descending from the sky, under the guise of a handsome youth, in answer to the prayers of a young man at his fast of virility, or coming to manhood.

"It is well known that corn-planting and corn-gathering, at least among all the still *uncolonized* tribes, are left entirely to the females and children, and a few superannuated old men. It is not generally known, perhaps, that this labor is not compulsory, and that it is assumed by the females as a just equivalent, in their view, for the onerous and continuous labor of

the other sex, in providing meats, and skins for clothing, by the chase, and in defending their villages against their enemies, and keeping intruders off their territories. A good Indian housewife deems this a part of her prerogative, and prides herself to have a store of corn to exercise her hospitality, or duly honor her husband's hospitality, in the entertainment of the lodge guests." — *Oneota*, p. 82.

Page 175. *Thus the fields shall be more fruitful.*

"A singular proof of this belief, in both sexes, of the mysterious influence of the steps of a woman on the vegetable and insect creation, is found in an ancient custom, which was related to me, respecting corn-planting. It was the practice of the hunter's wife, when the field of corn had been planted, to choose the first dark or overclouded evening to perform a secret circuit, *sans habillement*, around the field. For this purpose she slipped out of the lodge in the evening, unobserved, to some obscure nook, where she completely disrobed. Then, taking her matchecota, or principal garment, in one hand, she dragged it around the field. This was thought to insure a prolific crop, and to prevent the assaults of insects and worms upon the grain. It was supposed they could not creep over the charmed line." — *Oneota*, p. 83.

Page 176. *With his prisoner-string he bound him.*

"These cords," says Mr. Tanner, "are made of the bark of the elm-tree, by boiling and then immersing it in cold water. . . . The leader of a war party commonly carries several fastened about his waist, and if, in the course of the fight, any one of his young men takes a prisoner, it is his duty to bring him immediately to the chief, to be tied, and the latter is responsible for his safe keeping." — *Narrative of Captivity and Adventures*, p. 412.

Page 177.

*Wagemin, the thief of cornfields,
Paimosaid, who steals the maize-ear.*

"If one of the young female huskers finds a *red* ear of corn, it is typical of a brave admirer, and is regarded as a fitting present to some young warrior. But if the ear be *crooked*, and tapering to a point, no matter what color, the whole circle is set in a roar, and *u-a-ge-min* is the word shouted aloud. It is the symbol of a thief in the cornfield. It is considered as the image of an old man stooping as he enters the lot. Had the chisel of Praxiteles been employed to produce this image, it could not more vividly bring to the minds of the

merry group the idea of a pilferer of their favorite *mondámin*. . . .

"The literal meaning of the term is, a mass, or crooked ear of grain; but the ear of corn so called is a conventional type of a little old man pilfering ears of corn in a cornfield. It is in this manner that a single word or term, in these curious languages, becomes the fruitful parent of many ideas. And we can thus perceive why it is that the word *wagemin* is alone competent to excite merriment in the husking circle.

"This term is taken as the basis of the cereal chorus, or corn song, as sung by the Northern Algonquin tribes. It is coupled with the phrase *Paimosaid*, — a permutative form of the Indian substantive, made from the verb *pim-o-sa*, to walk. Its literal meaning is, *he who walks*, or *the walker*; but the ideas conveyed by it are, *he who walks by night to pilfer corn*. It offers, therefore, a kind of parallelism in expression to the preceding term." — *Oneota*, p. 254.

Page 182. *Pugasaing, with thirteen pieces.*

This Game of the Bowl is the principal game of hazard among the Northern tribes of Indians. Mr. Schoolcraft gives a particular account of it in *Oneota*, p. 85. "This game," he says, "is very fascinating to some portions of the Indians. They stake at it their ornaments, weapons, clothing, canoes, horses, everything in fact they possess; and have been known, it is said, to set up their wives and children, and even to forfeit their own liberty. Of such desperate stakes I have seen no examples, nor do I think the game itself in common use. It is rather confined to certain persons, who hold the relative rank of gamblers in Indian society, — men who are not noted as hunters or warriors, or steady providers for their families. Among these are persons who bear the term of *Ienadizze-wug*, that is, wanderers about the country, braggadocios, or fops. It can hardly be classed with the popular games of amusement, by which skill and dexterity are acquired. I have generally found the chiefs and graver men of the tribes, who encouraged the young men to play ball, and are sure to be present at the customary sports, to witness, and sanction, and applaud them, speak lightly and disparagingly of this game of hazard. Yet it cannot be denied that some of the chiefs, distinguished in war and the chase, at the West, can be referred to as lending their example to its fascinating power."

See also his *History, Condition, and Prospects of the Indian Tribes*, Part II. p. 72.

Page 188. *To the Pictured Rocks of sandstone.*

The reader will find a long description of the Pictured Rocks in Foster and Whitney's *Report on the Geology of the Lake Superior Land District*, Part II. p. 124. From this I make the following extract: —

"The Pictured Rocks may be described, in general terms, as a series of sandstone bluffs extending along the shore of Lake Superior for about five miles, and rising, in most places, vertically from the water, without any beach at the base, to a height varying from fifty to nearly two hundred feet. Were they simply a line of cliffs, they might not, so far as relates to height or extent, be worthy of a rank among great natural curiosities, although such an assemblage of rocky strata, washed by the waves of the great lake, would not, under any circumstances, be destitute of grandeur. To the voyager, coasting along their base in his frail canoe, they would, at all times, be an object of dread; the recoil of the surf, the rock-bound coast, affording, for miles, no place of refuge, — the lowering sky, the rising wind, — all these would excite his apprehension, and induce him to ply a vigorous oar until the dreaded wall was passed. But in the Pictured Rocks there are two features which communicate to the scenery a wonderful and almost unique character. These are, first, the curious manner in which the cliffs have been excavated and worn away by the action of the lake, which, for centuries, has dashed an ocean-like surf against their base; and, second, the equally curious manner in which large portions of the surface have been colored by bands of brilliant hues.

"It is from the latter circumstance that the name, by which these cliffs are known to the American traveller, is derived; while that applied to them by the French voyageurs ('Les Portails') is derived from the former, and by far the most striking peculiarity.

"The term *Pictured Rocks* has been in use for a great length of time; but when it was first applied, we have been unable to discover. It would seem that the first travellers were more impressed with the novel and striking distribution of colors on the surface than with the astonishing variety of form into which the cliffs themselves have been worn. . . .

"Our voyageurs had many legends to relate of the pranks of the *Menni-bojou* in these caverns, and, in answer to our inquiries, seemed disposed to fabricate stories, without end, of the achievements of this Indian deity."

Page 198. *Toward the sun his hands were lifted.*

In this manner, and with such salutations, was Father Marquette received by the Illinois. See his *Voyages et Découvertes*, Section V.

Page 203. *Full of the name and the fame of the Puritan maiden Priscilla.*

[Among the names of the Mayflower company are those of "Mr. William Mullines and his wife, and 2 children, Joseph and Priscilla; and a servant, Robert Carter."]

Page 204. *She is alone in the world.*

["Mr. Molines, and his wife, his sone and his servant, dyed the first winter. Only his daughter Priscilla survived and married with John Alden, who are both living and have 11 children." — Bradford: *History of Plymouth Plantation*.]

Page 206. *Gathering still, as he went, the Mayflowers blooming around him.*

[The Mayflower is the well-known *Epigaea repens*, sometimes also called the Trailing Arbutus. The name *Mayflower* was familiar in England, as the application of it to the historic vessel shows, but it was applied by the English, and still is, to the hawthorn. Its use here in connection with *Epigaea repens* dates from a very early day, some claiming that the first Pilgrims so used it, in affectionate memory of the vessel and its English flower association.]

Page 214. *With Stephen and Richard and Gilbert.*

[These names are not taken at random. Stephen Hopkins, Richard Warren, and Gilbert Winslow were all among the Mayflower passengers, and were alive at this time.]

Page 224. *After the Puritan way, and the laudable custom of Holland.*

["May 12 was the first marriage in this place, which, according to the laudable custome of the Low-Cuntries, in which they had lived, was thought most requisite to be performed by the magistrate, as being a civill thing, upon which many questions aboute inheritances doe depende, with other things most proper to their cognizans, and most consonante to the scripturs, Ruth 4, and no wher found in the gospell to be layed on the ministers as a part of their office." — Bradford: *History of Plymouth Plantation*, p. 101.]

Page 230.

*That of our vices we can frame
A ladder.*

The words of St. Augustine are, — "De vitiis nostris scalam nobis facimus, si vitia ipsa calcamus."

Sermon III. *De Ascensione.*

Page 230. THE PHANTOM SHIP.

A detailed account of this "apparition of a Ship in the Air" is given by Cotton Mather in his *Magnalia Christi*, Book I. Ch. VI. It is contained in a letter from the Rev. James Pierpont, Pastor of New Haven. To this account Mather adds these words: —

"Reader, there being yet living so many credible gentlemen that were eyewitnesses of this wonderful thing, I venture to publish it for a thing as undoubted as 't is wonderful."

Page 231. THE WARDEN OF THE CINQUE PORTS.

[Written in October, 1852. The Warden was the Duke of Wellington, who died September 13.]

Page 233. *And the Emperor but a Macho.*

Macho, in Spanish, signifies a mule. *Golondrina* is the feminine form of *Golondrino*, a swallow, and also a cant name for a deserter.

Page 234. THE TWO ANGELS.

[Written at the time of the birth of one of the poet's daughters, and the death of the wife of his friend, James Russell Lowell.]

Page 236. OLIVER BASSELIN.

Oliver Basselin, the "*Père joyeux du Vaudeville*," flourished in the fifteenth century, and gave to his convivial songs the name of his native valleys, in which he sang them, Vaux-de-Vire. This name was afterwards corrupted into the modern *Vaudeville*.

Page 237. VICTOR GALBRAITH.

This poem is founded on fact. Victor Galbraith was a bugler in a company of volunteer cavalry, and was shot in Mexico for some breach of discipline. It is a common superstition among soldiers, that no balls will kill them unless their names are written on them. The old proverb says, "Every bullet has its billet."

Page 239. *I remember the sea-fight far away.*

This was the engagement between the *Enterprise* and the *Boxer*, off the harbor of Portland, in which both captains were slain. They were buried side by side, in the cemetery on Mountjoy.

Page 242. SANTA FILOMENA.

"At Pisa the church of San Francisco contains a chapel dedicated lately to Santa Filomena; over the altar is a picture, by Sabatelli, representing the Saint as a beautiful, nymph-like figure, floating down from heaven, attended by two angels bearing the lily, palm, and javelin, and beneath, in the foreground, the sick and maimed, who are healed by her intercession." — MRS. JAMESON, *Sacred and Le-*

gendary Art, II. 298. [The reference is to Miss Florence Nightingale.]

Page 251. TALES OF A WAYSIDE INN. PRELUDE.

[All the guests, as well as the Inn, are real. The musician is Ole Bull, the Spanish Jew Israel Edrehi, the poet T. W. Parsons, the Sicilian Luigi Monti, the theologian Professor Daniel Treadwell, the student Henry Ware Wales.]

Page 252.

Writ near a century ago

By the great Major Molineux

Whom Hawthorne has immortal made.

[The lines are as follows: —

What do you think?

Here is good drink,

Perhaps you may not know it;

If not in haste,

Do stop and taste!

You merry folk will show it.

On another pane appears the Major's name, Wm. Molineux Jr. Esq., and the date, June 24, 1774. The allusion is to Hawthorne's tale, *My Kinsman, Major Molineux*.]

Page 255. *The midnight ride of Paul Revere.*

[It is possible that Mr. Longfellow derived the story from Paul Revere's account of the incident in a letter to Dr. Jeremy Belknap, printed in Mass. Hist. Coll. V. Mr. Frothingham, in his *Siege of Boston*, pp. 57-59, gives the story mainly according to a memorandum of Richard Devens, Revere's friend and associate. The publication of Mr. Longfellow's poem called out a protracted discussion both as to the church from which the signals were hung, and as to the friend who hung the lanterns. The subject is discussed and authorities cited in *Memorial History of Boston*, III. 101.]

Page 259. THE FALCON OF SER FEDERIGO.

[The story is found in the *Decameron*, Fifth day, ninth tale. As Boccaccio, however, was not the first to tell it, so Mr. Longfellow is not the only one after him to repeat it. So remote a source as *Pantchatantra* (Benfey, II. 247) contains it, and La Fontaine includes it in his *Contes et Nouvelles* under the title of *Le Faucon*. Tennyson has treated the subject dramatically in *The Falcon*.]

Page 265. THE LEGEND OF RABBI BEN LEVI.

[Varnhagen refers to three several sources of this legend in the books *Col Bo*, *Ben Sira*, and *Ketuboth*, but it is most likely that Mr. Longfellow was indebted for the story to his friend Emmanuel Vitalis Scherb.]

Page 267. KING ROBERT OF SICILY.

[This story is one of very wide distribution. It is given in *Gesta Romanorum* as the story of Jovinian. Frere in his *Old Deccan Days, or Hindoo Fairy Legends current in Southern India*, recites it in the form of *The Wanderings of Vicram Maharajah*. Varnhagen pursues the legend through a great variety of forms. Leigh Hunt, among moderns, has told the story in *A Jar of Honey from Mt. Hybla*, from which source Mr. Longfellow seems to have drawn. Dante refers to the King in *Paradiso*, Canto VIII.]

Page 300. THE BIRDS OF KILLINGWORTH.

[Killingworth in Connecticut was named from the English town Kenilworth in Warwickshire, and had the same orthography in the early records, but was afterwards corrupted into its present form. Sixty or seventy years ago, according to Mr. Henry Hull, writing from personal recollection, "the men of the northern part of the town did yearly in the spring choose two leaders, and then the two sides were formed: the side that got beaten should pay the bills. Their special game was the hawk, the owl, the crow, the blackbird, and any other bird supposed to be mischievous to the corn. Some years each side would bring them in by the bushel. This was followed up for only a few years, for the birds began to grow scarce." The story, based upon such a slight suggestion, was Mr. Longfellow's own invention.]

Page 308. THE BELL OF ATRI.

[See Gualteruzzi's *Cento Novelle Antiche*.]

Page 311. KAMBALU.

[See Boni's edition of *Il Milione di Marco Polo*, II. 35 and I. 14.]

Page 322. LADY WENTWORTH.

[The traditional account of the incidents of this tale in the family of Governor Wentworth is that none but his near relations were present at the marriage, which they considered a great degradation. "The bride, who had been his housekeeper for seven years, was then 35, and attired in a calico dress and a white apron. The family stood in wholesome awe of the sturdy old governor, so treated Patty with civility, but it was hard work for the stately old dames, and she was dropped after his death." Governor Wentworth was born July 24, 1696, and his marriage was on March 15, 1760.]

Page 337. CHARLEMAGNE.

[From a story in an old chronicle, *De Factis Caroli Magni*, quoted by Cantù, *Storia degli Italiani*, II. 122.]

Page 344. ELIZABETH.

[As intimated in the Interlude which

follows, the tale of *Elizabeth* was founded on a prose tale by Mrs. Lydia Maria Child, entitled *The Youthful Emigrant*, which fell under Mr. Longfellow's eye in a Portland paper. Besides this he had recourse to *A Call to the Unfaithful Professors of Truth*, by John Estauagh, with Preface by his widow. E. E.'s Testimony concerning her husband J. E. Several expressions in the poem are derived from this little book.]

Page 360. THE MOTHER'S GHOST.

[A Danish ballad to be found in Grundtvig's *Danmarks gamle Folkeviser*, II. 478, was the basis of this poem.]

Page 401. All save one.

[Professor Alpheus Spring Packard, since deceased.]

Page 406. In Attica thy birthplace should have been.

[Cornelius Conway Felton, at one time Professor of Greek, and afterward President, at Harvard College.]

Page 407. Piteously calling and lamenting thee.

[Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz, the eminent naturalist, whose summer home at Nahant was near Mr. Longfellow's, while they were also fellow-townsmen in Cambridge.]

Page 407. A friend who bore thy name.

[Charles Sumner.]

Page 412. Here lies the gentle humorist.

[Washington Irving.]

Page 413. PARKER CLEAVELAND.

[A distinguished naturalist who was senior professor at Bowdoin College, where Mr. Longfellow was first a student and afterward an instructor.]

Page 418. Poet! I come to touch thy lance with mine.

"When any came to take the government of the Hundred or Wapentake in a day and place appointed, as they were accustomed to meet, all the better sort met him with lances, and he alighting from his horse, all rise up to him, and he setting or holding his lance upright, all the rest come with their lances, according to the ancient custom in confirming league and public peace and obedience, and touch his lance or weapon, and thereof called Wapentake, for the Saxon or old English *wapun* is weapon, and *tac, tactus*, a touching, thereby this meeting called Wapentake, or touching of weapon, because that by that sign and ceremony of touching weapon or the lance, they were sworn and confederate." — Master Lamberd in *Minshew*.

Page 438. Of the White Chief with yellow hair.

[General George A. Custer, who was surprised and with his entire force put to death by the Sioux, June 25, 1876.]

Page 145. *Watch o'er Maximilian's tomb.*

In the Hofkirche at Innsbruck.

Page 159. THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE.

["The Children's Crusade" was left unfinished by Mr. Longfellow. It is founded upon an event which occurred in the year 1212. An army of twenty thousand children, mostly boys, under the lead of a boy of ten years, named Nicolas, set out from Cologne for the Holy Land. When they reached Genoa only seven thousand remained. There, as the sea did not divide to allow them to march dry-shod to the East, they broke up. Some got as far as Rome; two ship-loads sailed from Pisa, and were not heard of again; the rest straggled back to Germany.]

Page 469. THE BELLS OF SAN BLAS.

[The last poem written by Mr. Longfellow. It was finished March 15, 1882, nine days before his death.]

Page 535. THE GOLDEN LEGEND.

The old *Legenda Aurea*, or Golden Legend, was originally written in Latin, in the thirteenth century, by Jacobus de Voragine, a Dominican friar, who afterwards became Archbishop of Genoa, and died in 1292.

He called his book simply *Legends of the Saints*. The epithet of Golden was given it by his admirers; for, as Wynkin de Worde says, "Like as passeth gold in value all other metals, so this Legend exceedeth all other books." But Edward Leigh, in much distress of mind, calls it "a book written by a man of a leaden heart for the baseness of the errors, that are without wit or reason, and of a brazen forehead, for his impudent boldness in reporting things so fabulous and incredible."

I have called this poem the *Golden Legend*, because the story upon which it is founded seems to me to surpass all other legends in beauty and significance. It exhibits, amid the corruptions of the Middle Ages, the virtue of disinterestedness and self-sacrifice, and the power of Faith, Hope, and Charity, sufficient for all the exigencies of life and death. The story is told, and perhaps invented, by Hartmann von der Aue, a Minnesinger of the twelfth century. The original may be found in Mailáth's *Altdeutsche Gedichte*, with a modern German version. There is another in Marbach's *Volksbücher*, No. 32.

[Mr. S. Arthur Bent has annotated *The Golden Legend* with fulness and care.]

Page 535.

*For these bells have been anointed,
And baptized with holy water!*

The consecration and baptism of bells is

one of the most curious ceremonies of the Church in the Middle Ages. The Council of Cologne ordained as follows:—

"Let the bells be blessed, as the trumpets of the Church militant, by which the people are assembled to hear the word of God; the clergy to announce his mercy by day, and his truth in their nocturnal vigils: that by their sound the faithful may be invited to prayers, and that the spirit of devotion in them may be increased. The fathers have also maintained that demons, affrighted by the sound of bells calling Christians to prayers, would flee away; and when they fled, the persons of the faithful would be secure: that the destruction of lightnings and whirlwinds would be averted, and the spirits of the storm defeated."—*Edinburgh Encyclopædia*, Art. "Bells."

See also Scheible's *Kloster*, vi. 776.

Page 548. EVENING SONG.

[Mr. Bent, in his annotated edition of *The Golden Legend*, remarks that this is modelled upon the choral songs which the Reformed Church of Germany adopted from existing popular chorals, which had long been in use in the social and public observances of the German people.]

Page 551. *It is the malediction of Eve!*

"Nec esses plus quam femina, quæ nunc etiam viros transcendis, et quæ maledictionem Evæ in benedictionem vertisti Mariæ."—*Epistola Abælardi Heloissæ*.

Page 563. *To come back to my text!*

In giving this sermon of Friar Cuthbert as a specimen of the *Risus Paschales*, or street-preaching of the monks at Easter, I have exaggerated nothing. This very anecdote, offensive as it is, comes from a discourse of Father Barletta, a Dominican friar of the fifteenth century, whose fame as a popular preacher was so great that it gave rise to the proverb,—

Nescit predicare

Qui nescit Barlettare.

"Among the abuses introduced in this century," says Tiraboschi, "was that of exciting from the pulpit the laughter of the hearers; as if that were the same thing as converting them. We have examples of this, not only in Italy, but also in France, where the sermons of Menot and Maillard, and of others, who would make a better appearance on the stage than in the pulpit, are still celebrated for such follies."

My authority for the spiritual interpretation of bell-ringing, which follows, is Durandus, *Ration. Divin. Offic.*, Lib. I., cap. 4.

Page 565. THE NATIVITY: a Miracle-Play.

A singular chapter in the history of the

Middle Ages is that which gives account of the early Christian Drama, the Mysteries, Moralities, and Miracle-Plays, which were at first performed in churches, and afterwards in the streets, on fixed or movable stages. For the most part, the Mysteries were founded on the historic portions of the Old and New Testaments, and the Miracle-Plays on the lives of Saints; a distinction not always observed, however, for in Mr. Wright's *Early Mysteries and other Latin Poems of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries*, the Resurrection of Lazarus is called a Miracle, and not a Mystery. The Moralities were plays in which the Virtues and Vices were personified.

The earliest religious play which has been preserved is the *Christos Paschon* of Gregory Nazianzen, written in Greek, in the fourth century. Next to this come the remarkable Latin plays of Roswitha, the Nun of Gandersheim, in the tenth century, which, though crude and wanting in artistic construction, are marked by a good deal of dramatic power and interest.

The representation of religious plays has not yet been wholly discontinued by the Roman Church. At Ober-Ammergau, in the Tyrol, a grand spectacle of this kind is exhibited once in ten years. A very graphic description of that which took place in the year 1850 is given by Miss Anna Mary Howitt, in her *Art-Student in Munich*, vol. I., chap. 4.

Mr. Bayard Taylor, in his *Eldorado*, gives a description of a Mystery he saw performed at San Lionel, in Mexico. See vol. II., chap. 11.

In 1852 there was a representation of this kind by Germans in Boston: and I have now before me the copy of a play-bill, announcing the performance, on June 10, 1852, in Cincinnati, of the *Great Biblico-Historical Drama, the Life of Jesus Christ*, with the characters and the names of the performers.

Page 566. *Here the Angel Gabriel shall leave Paradise.*

[A stage of three stories was often erected, the topmost representing Paradise (hence in Germany this word is used for the upper gallery of a theatre, *anglicé*, "the Gods"); on the middle stage was the Earth; below were the "Jaws of Hell," sometimes represented by the opening and shutting of the mouth of an enormous dragon. Goethe introduces the Jaws of Hell to the stage machinery of *Faust*. (V. 6). — S. A. Bent.]

Page 575. *The Scriptorium.*

A most interesting volume might be written on the Calligraphers and Chrysographers, the transcribers and illuminators

of manuscripts in the Middle Ages. These men were for the most part monks, who labored, sometimes for pleasure and sometimes for penance, in multiplying copies of the classics and the Scriptures.

"Of all bodily labors which are proper for us," says Cassiodorus, the old Calabrian monk, "that of copying books has always been more to my taste than any other. The more so, as in this exercise the mind is instructed by the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and it is a kind of homily to the others, whom these books may reach. It is preaching with the hand, by converting the fingers into tongues; it is publishing to men in silence the words of salvation; in fine, it is fighting against the demon with pen and ink. As many words as a transcriber writes, so many wounds the demon receives. In a word, a recluse, seated in his chair to copy books, travels into different provinces without moving from the spot, and the labor of his hands is felt even where he is not."

Nearly every monastery was provided with its Scriptorium. Nicolas de Clairvaux, St. Bernard's secretary, in one of his letters describes his cell, which he calls Scriptorium, where he copied books. And Mabillon, in his *Etudes Monastiques*, says that in his time were still to be seen at Citeaux "many of those little cells, where the transcribers and bookbinders worked."

Page 580. *Drink down to your peg!*

One of the canons of Archbishop Anselm, promulgated at the beginning of the twelfth century, ordains "that priests go not to drinking-bouts, nor drink to pegs." In the times of the hard-drinking Danes, King Edgar ordained that pins or nails should be fastened into the drinking-cups or horns at stated distances, and whosoever should drink beyond those marks at one draught should be obnoxious to a severe punishment.

Sharpe, in his *History of the Kings of England*, says: "Our ancestors were formerly famous for computation; their liquor was ale, and one method of amusing themselves in this way was with the peg-tankard. I had lately one of them in my hand. It had on the inside a row of eight pins, one above another, from top to bottom. It held two quarts, and was a noble piece of plate, so that there was a gill of ale, half a pint Winchester measure, between each peg. The law was, that every person that drank was to empty the space between pin and pin, so that the pins were so many measures to make the company all drink alike, and to swallow the same quantity of liquor. This was a pretty sure method of making all

the company drunk, especially if it be considered that the rule was, that whoever drank short of his pin, or beyond it, was obliged to drink again, and even as deep as to the next pin."

Page 594. *Were it not for my magic garters and staff.*

The method of making the Magic Garters and the Magic Staff is thus laid down in *Les Secrets Merveilleux du Petit Albert*, a French translation of *Alberti Parvi Lucii Libellus de Mirabilibus Naturæ Arcanis* :—

"Gather some of the herb called motherwort, when the sun is entering the first degree of the sign of Capricorn; let it dry a little in the shade, and make some garters of the skin of a young hare; that is to say, having cut the skin of the hare into strips two inches wide, double them, sew the before-mentioned herb between, and wear them on your legs. No horse can long keep up with a man on foot, who is furnished with these garters." — Page 128.

"Gather, on the morrow of All-Saints, a strong branch of willow, of which you will make a staff, fashioned to your liking. Hollow it out, by removing the pith from within, after having furnished the lower end with an iron ferule. Put into the bottom of the staff the two eyes of a young wolf, the tongue and heart of a dog, three green lizards, and the hearts of three swallows. These must all be dried in the sun, between two papers, having been first sprinkled with pulverized saltpetre. Besides all these, put into the staff seven leaves of vervain, gathered on the eve of St. John the Baptist, with a stone of divers colors, which you will find in the nest of the lapwing, and stop the end of the staff with a pomel of box, or of any other material you please, and be assured that this staff will guarantee you from the perils and mishaps which too often befall travellers, either from robbers, wild beasts, mad dogs, or venomous animals. It will also procure you the good-will of those with whom you lodge." — Page 130.

Page 597. *Saint Elmo's Stars.*

So the Italian sailors called the phosphorescent gleams that sometimes play about the masts and rigging of ships.

Page 597. *The School of Salerno.*

For a history of the celebrated schools of Salerno and Monte-Cassino, the reader is referred to Sir Alexander Croke's Introduction to the *Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum*; and to Kurt Sprengel's *Geschichte der Arzneikunde*, i. 463, or Jourdan's French translation of it, *Histoire de la Médecine*, ii. 354.

Page 663. *He must spell Baker.*

A local expression for doing anything

difficult. In the old spelling-books, Baker was the first word of two syllables, and when a child came to it he thought he had a hard task before him.

Page 692.

*To King Antiochus,
The God, Epiphanes: a Memorial,
From the Sidonians, who live at Sichem.*

[The reader will notice in *The Divine Tragedy* the ease with which Mr. Longfellow adjusted the Scriptural phraseology to the demands of blank verse. So here, he has been able to use without change the words found in Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XII. Chapter V. in Whiston's translation. The text of the Memorial is slightly condensed, but otherwise is almost a transcript from Whiston.]

Page 694. *THE DUNGEONS IN THE CITADEL.*

[This powerful scene is a dramatization of II. Maccabees, chapter 7, with the effective change by which the mother is shown apart from the sons, and the torture is made inferential.]

Page 712.

*Why did the Pope and his ten Cardinals
Come here to lay this heavy task upon me?*

[The Last Judgment was begun in 1534, when Paul III., Alessandro Farnese, was Pope.]

Page 712.

*The bones of Julius
Shook in their sepulchre.*

[Julius II., who became Pope in 1503. The Julius who appears in this poem is Julius III.]

Page 728.

*The Marquis of Pescara is my husband,
And death has not divorced us.*

[Vittoria Colonna was born in 1490, betrothed to the Marquis de Pescara in 1495, and married to him in 1509. Pescara was killed in fighting against the French under the walls of Ravenna in 1512. It is not known when or where Vittoria Colonna first met Michael Angelo, but all authorities agree that it must have been about the year 1536, when he was over sixty years of age. She did not escape the espionage of the Inquisition, but was compelled in 1541 to fly to the convent at Viterbo. Three years later, she went to the convent of Benedictines of St. Anne in Rome, and just before her death, in 1547, she was taken to the house of Giuliano Cesarini, the husband of Giulia Colonna, her only relative in Rome. It was after she fled to the convent that she began to write sonnets to and receive them from Michael Angelo, whose love for her was not capable of being concealed. Hartford, in his *Life of Michael Angelo Buonarotti*, includes a life also of Vittoria Colonna.]

Page 775. **COPLAS DE MANRIQUE.**

This poem of Manrique is a great favorite in Spain. No less than four poetic Glosses, or running commentaries, upon it have been published, no one of which, however, possesses great poetic merit. That of the Carthusian monk, Rodrigo de Valdepeñas, is the best. It is known as the *Closa del Cartujo*. There is also a prose Commentary by Luis de Aranda.

The following stanzas of the poem were found in the author's pocket, after his death on the field of battle.

"O World! so few the years we live,
Would that the life which thou dost give
Were life indeed!
Alas! thy sorrows fall so fast,
Our happiest hour is when at last
The soul is freed.

"Our days are covered o'er with grief,
And sorrows neither few nor brief
Veil all in gloom;
Left desolate of real good,
Within this cheerless solitude
No pleasures bloom.

"Thy pilgrimage begins in tears,
And ends in bitter doubts and fears,
Or dark despair;
Midway so many toils appear,
That he who lingers longest here
Knows most of care.

"Thy goods are bought with many a groan,
By the hot sweat of toil alone,
And weary hearts;
Fleet-footed is the approach of woe,
But with a lingering step and slow
Its form departs."

Page 791. **THE CHILDREN OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.**

There is something patriarchal still lingering about rural life in Sweden, which renders it a fit theme for song. Almost primeval simplicity reigns over that Northern land, — almost primeval solitude and stillness. You pass out from the gate of the city, and, as if by magic, the scene changes to a wild, woodland landscape. Around you are forests of fir. Overhead hang the long, fan-like branches, trailing with moss, and heavy with red and blue cones. Under foot is a carpet of yellow leaves; and the air is warm and balmy. On a wooden bridge you cross a little silver stream; and anon come forth into a pleasant and sunny land of farms. Wooden fences divide the adjoining fields. Across the road are gates, which are opened by troops of children. The peasants take off their hats as you pass; you sneeze, and they cry, "God bless you!" The houses in the villages and smaller towns are all built of hewn timber, and for the most part painted red. The floors of

the taverns are strewn with the fragrant tips of fir boughs. In many villages there are no taverns, and the peasants take turns in receiving travellers. The thrifty housewife shows you into the best chamber, the walls of which are hung round with rude pictures from the Bible; and brings you her heavy silver spoons, — an heirloom, — to dip the curdled milk from the pan. You have oaten cakes baked some months before, or bread with anise-seed and coriander in it, or perhaps a little pine bark.

Meanwhile the sturdy husband has brought his horses from the plough, and harnessed them to your carriage. Solitary travellers come and go in uncouth one-horse chaises. Most of them have pipes in their mouths, and, hanging around their necks in front, a leather wallet, in which they carry tobacco, and the great bank-notes of the country, as large as your two hands. You meet, also, groups of Dalekarlian peasant-women, travelling homeward or townward in pursuit of work. They walk barefoot, carrying in their hands their shoes, which have high heels under the hollow of the foot, and soles of birch bark.

Frequent, too, are the village churches, standing by the roadside, each in its own little Garden of Gethsemane. In the parish register great events are doubtless recorded. Some old king was christened or buried in that church; and a little sexton, with a rusty key, shows you the baptismal font, or the coffin. In the churchyard are a few flowers, and much green grass; and daily the shadow of the church spire, with its long, tapering finger, counts the tombs, representing a dial-plate of human life, on which the hours and minutes are the graves of men. The stones are flat, and large, and low, and perhaps sunken, like the roofs of old houses. On some are armorial bearings; on others only the initials of the poor tenants, with a date, as on the roofs of Dutch cottages. They all sleep with their heads to the westward. Each held a lighted taper in his hand when he died; and in his coffin were placed his little heart-treasures, and a piece of money for his last journey. Babies that came lifeless into the world were carried in the arms of gray-haired old men to the only cradle they ever slept in; and in the shroud of the dead mother were laid the little garments of the child that lived and died in her bosom. And over this scene the village pastor looks from his window in the stillness of midnight, and says in his heart, "How quietly they rest, all the departed!"

Near the churchyard gate stands a poor-box, fastened to a post by iron bands and

secured by a padlock, with a sloping wooden roof to keep off the rain. If it be Sunday, the peasants sit on the church steps and con their psalm-books. Others are coming down the road with their beloved pastor, who talks to them of holy things from beneath his broad-brimmed hat. He speaks of fields and harvests, and of the parable of the sower, that went forth to sow. He leads them to the Good Shepherd, and to the pleasant pastures of the spirit-land. He is their patriarch, and, like Melchizedek, both priest and king, though he has no other throne than the church pulpit. The women carry psalm-books in their hands, wrapped in silk handkerchiefs, and listen devoutly to the good man's words. But the young men, like Gallio, care for none of these things. They are busy counting the plaits in the kirtles of the peasant-girls, their number being an indication of the wearer's wealth. It may end in a wedding.

I will endeavor to describe a village wedding in Sweden. It shall be in summer-time, that there may be flowers, and in a southern province, that the bride may be fair. The early song of the lark and of chanticler are mingling in the clear morning air, and the sun, the heavenly bridegroom with golden locks, arises in the east, just as our earthly bridegroom with yellow hair arises in the south. In the yard there is a sound of voices and trampling of hoofs, and horses are led forth and saddled. The steed that is to bear the bridegroom has a bunch of flowers upon his forehead, and a garland of corn-flowers around his neck. Friends from the neighboring farms come riding in, their blue cloaks streaming to the wind; and finally the happy bridegroom, with a whip in his hand, and a monstrous nosegay in the breast of his black jacket, comes forth from his chamber; and then to horse and away, towards the village where the bride already sits and waits.

Foremost rides the spokesman, followed by some half-dozen village musicians. Next comes the bridegroom between his two groomsmen, and then forty or fifty friends and wedding guests, half of them perhaps with pistols and guns in their hands. A kind of baggage-wagon brings up the rear, laden with food and drink for these merry pilgrims. At the entrance of every village stands a triumphal arch, adorned with flowers and ribbons and evergreens; and as they pass beneath it the wedding guests fire a salute, and the whole procession stops. And straight from every pocket flies a black-jack, filled with punch or brandy. It is passed from hand to hand among the crowd; provisions are

brought from the wagon, and after eating and drinking and hurrahing the procession moves forward again, and at length draws near the house of the bride. Four heralds ride forward to announce that a knight and his attendants are in the neighboring forest, and pray for hospitality. "How many are you?" asks the bride's father. "At least three hundred," is the answer; and to this the host replies, "Yes; were you seven times as many, you should all be welcome: and in token thereof receive this cup." Whereupon each herald receives a can of ale; and soon after the whole jovial company comes storming into the farmer's yard, and, riding round the May-pole, which stands in the centre, alights amid a grand salute and flourish of music.

In the hall sits the bride, with a crown upon her head and a tear in her eye, like the Virgin Mary in old church paintings. She is dressed in a red bodice and kirtle with loose linen sleeves. There is a gilded belt around her waist; and around her neck strings of golden beads, and a golden chain. On the crown rests a wreath of wild roses, and below it another of cypress. Loose over her shoulders falls her flaxen hair; and her blue innocent eyes are fixed upon the ground. O thou good soul! thou hast hard hands, but a soft heart! Thou art poor. The very ornaments thou wearest are not thine. They have been hired for this great day. Yet art thou rich; rich in health, rich in hope, rich in thy first, young, fervent love. The blessing of Heaven be upon thee! So thinks the parish priest, as he joins together the hands of bride and bridegroom, saying in deep, solemn tones, — "I give thee in marriage this damsel, to be thy wedded wife in all honor, and to share the half of thy bed, thy lock and key, and every third penny which you two may possess, or may inherit, and all the rights which Upland's laws provide, and the holy King Erik gave."

The dinner is now served, and the bride sits between the bridegroom and the priest. The spokesman delivers an oration after the ancient custom of his fathers. He interlards it well with quotations from the Bible; and invites the Saviour to be present at this marriage feast, as he was at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee. The table is not sparingly set forth. Each makes a long arm and the feast goes cheerly on. Punch and brandy pass round between the courses, and here and there a pipe is smoked while waiting for the next dish. They sit long at table; but, as all things must have an end, so must a Swedish dinner. Then the dance begins. It is led off

by the bride and the priest, who perform a solemn minuet together. Not till after midnight comes the last dance. The girls form a ring around the bride, to keep her from the hands of the married women, who endeavor to break through the magic circle, and seize their new sister. After long struggling they succeed; and the crown is taken from her head and the jewels from her neck, and her bodice is unlaced and her kirtle taken off; and like a vestal virgin clad all in white she goes, but it is to her marriage chamber, not to her grave; and the wedding guests follow her with lighted candles in their hands. And this is a village bridal.

Nor must I forget the suddenly changing seasons of the Northern clime. There is no long and lingering spring, unfolding leaf and blossom one by one; no long and lingering autumn, pompous with many-colored leaves and the glow of Indian summers. But winter and summer are wonderful, and pass into each other. The quail has hardly ceased piping in the corn, when winter from the folds of trailing clouds sows broadcast over the land snow, icicles, and rattling hail. The days wane apace. Erelong the sun hardly rises above the horizon, or does not rise at all. The moon and the stars shine through the day; only, at noon, they are pale and wan, and in the southern sky a red, fiery glow, as of sunset, burns along the horizon, and then goes out. And pleasantly under the silver moon, and under the silent, solemn stars, ring the steel-shoes of the skaters on the frozen sea, and voices, and the sound of bells.

And now the Northern Lights begin to burn, faintly at first, like sunbeams playing in the waters of the blue sea. Then a soft crimson glow tinges the heavens. There is a blush on the cheek of night. The colors come and go, and change from crimson to gold, from gold to crimson. The snow is stained with rosy light. Two-fold from the zenith, east and west, flames a fiery sword; and a broad band passes athwart the heavens like a summer sunset. Soft purple clouds come sailing over the sky, and through their vapory folds the winking stars shine white as silver. With such pomp as this is Merry Christmas ushered in, though only a single star heralded the first Christmas. And in memory of that day the Swedish peasants dance on straw; and the peasant-girls throw straws at the timbered roof of the hall, and for every one that sticks in a crack shall a groomsman come to their wedding. Merry Christmas indeed! For pious souls there shall be church songs and sermons, but for Swedish peasants, brandy and nut-brown

ale in wooden bowls; and the great Yule-cake crowned with a cheese, and garlanded with apples, and upholding a three-armed candlestick over the Christmas feast. They may tell tales, too, of Jöns Lundsbracka, and Lunkenfus, and the great Riddar Finke of Pingsdaga.¹

And now the glad, leafy midsummer, full of blossoms and the song of nightingales, is come! Saint John has taken the flowers and festival of heathen Balder; and in every village there is a May-pole fifty feet high, with wreaths and roses and ribbons streaming in the wind, and a noisy weather-cock on top, to tell the village whence the wind cometh and whither it goeth. The sun does not set till ten o'clock at night; and the children are at play in the streets an hour later. The windows and doors are all open, and you may sit and read till midnight without a candle. O, how beautiful is the summer night, which is not night, but a sunless yet unclouded day, descending upon earth with dews and shadows and refreshing coolness! How beautiful the long, mild twilight, which like a silver clasp unites to-day with yesterday! How beautiful the silent hour, when Morning and Evening thus sit together, hand in hand, beneath the starless sky of midnight! From the church-tower in the public square the bell tolls the hour, with a soft, musical chime; and the watchman, whose watch-tower is the belfry, blows a blast in his horn, for each stroke of the hammer, and four times, to the four corners of the heavens, in a sonorous voice he chants, —

“Ho! watchman, ho!
Twelve is the clock!
God keep our town
From fire and brand
And hostile hand!
Twelve is the clock!”

From his swallow's nest in the belfry he can see the sun all night long; and farther north the priest stands at his door in the warm midnight, and lights his pipe with a common burning-glass.

I trust these remarks will not be deemed irrelevant to the poem, but will lead to a clearer understanding of it. The translation is literal, perhaps to a fault. In no instance have I done the author a wrong, by introducing into his work any supposed improvements or embellishments of my own. I have preserved even the measure.

Esaias Tegnér, the author of this poem, was born in 1782, was educated at the University of Lund, and in 1812 was appointed Professor of Greek in that institution. In 1824 he became Bishop of Wexiö. He stands first among the poets of Sweden, living

¹ Titles of Swedish popular tales.

or dead. His principal work is Frithiof's Saga, one of the most remarkable poems of the age. This modern Scald has written his name in immortal runes. He is the glory and boast of Sweden; a prophet honored in his own country. [Bishop Tegnér died in 1846]

Page 792. *The Feast of the Leafy Pavilions.*

In Swedish, *Löfhyddohögtiden*, the Leaf-huts'-high-tide.

Page 792. *Hörberg.*

The peasant-painter of Sweden. He is known chiefly by his altar-pieces in the village churches.

Page 792. *Wallin.*

A distinguished pulpit-orator and poet. He is particularly remarkable for the beauty and sublimity of his psalms.

Page 801. KING CHRISTIAN.

Nils Juel was a celebrated Danish Admiral, and Peder Wessel, a Vice-Admiral, who for his great prowess received the popular title of Tordenskiold, or Thunder-shield. In childhood he was a tailor's apprentice, and rose to his high rank before the age of twenty-eight, when he was killed in a duel.

Page 802. THE ELECTED KNIGHT.

This strange and somewhat mystical ballad is from Nyerup and Rahbek's *Danske Viser* of the Middle Ages. It seems to refer to the first preaching of Christianity in the North, and to the institution of Knight-Errantry. The three maidens I suppose to be Faith, Hope, and Charity. The irregularities of the original have been carefully preserved in the translation.

Page 809. THE LUCK OF EDENHALL.

The tradition upon which this ballad is founded, and the "shards of the Luck of Edenhall," still exist in England. The goblet is in the possession of Sir Christopher Musgrave, Bart., of Eden Hall, Cumberland; and is not so entirely shattered as the ballad leaves it.

Page 819. THE BLIND GIRL OF CASTEL-CUILLE.

Jasmin, the author of this beautiful poem, is to the South of France what Burns is to the South of Scotland, — the representative of the heart of the people, — one of those happy bards who are born with their mouths full of birds (*la bouco pleno d'aouzelous*). He has written his own biography in a poetic form, and the simple narrative of his poverty, his struggles, and his triumphs is very touching. He still lives at Agen, on the Garonne; and long may he live there to delight his native land with native songs! [Jasmin died in 1864, in his sixty-seventh year.]

[When first printing this note, Mr. Longfellow added a long description of Jasmin and his way of life from Louisa Stuart Costello's *Béarn and the Pyrenees*. In more recent days Miss H. W. Preston has written sympathetically on the same subject. See *The Atlantic Monthly*, January and February, 1876.]

Page 826. *A Christmas Carol.*

[A description of Christmas in Burgundy from M. Fertiault's *Coup d'Œil sur les Noels en Bourgogne*, prefixed to the Paris edition of *Les Noels Bourguignons de Bernard de la Mennoye* (Gui Barôzai), 1842, was quoted by Mr. Longfellow when first printing this poem.]

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